



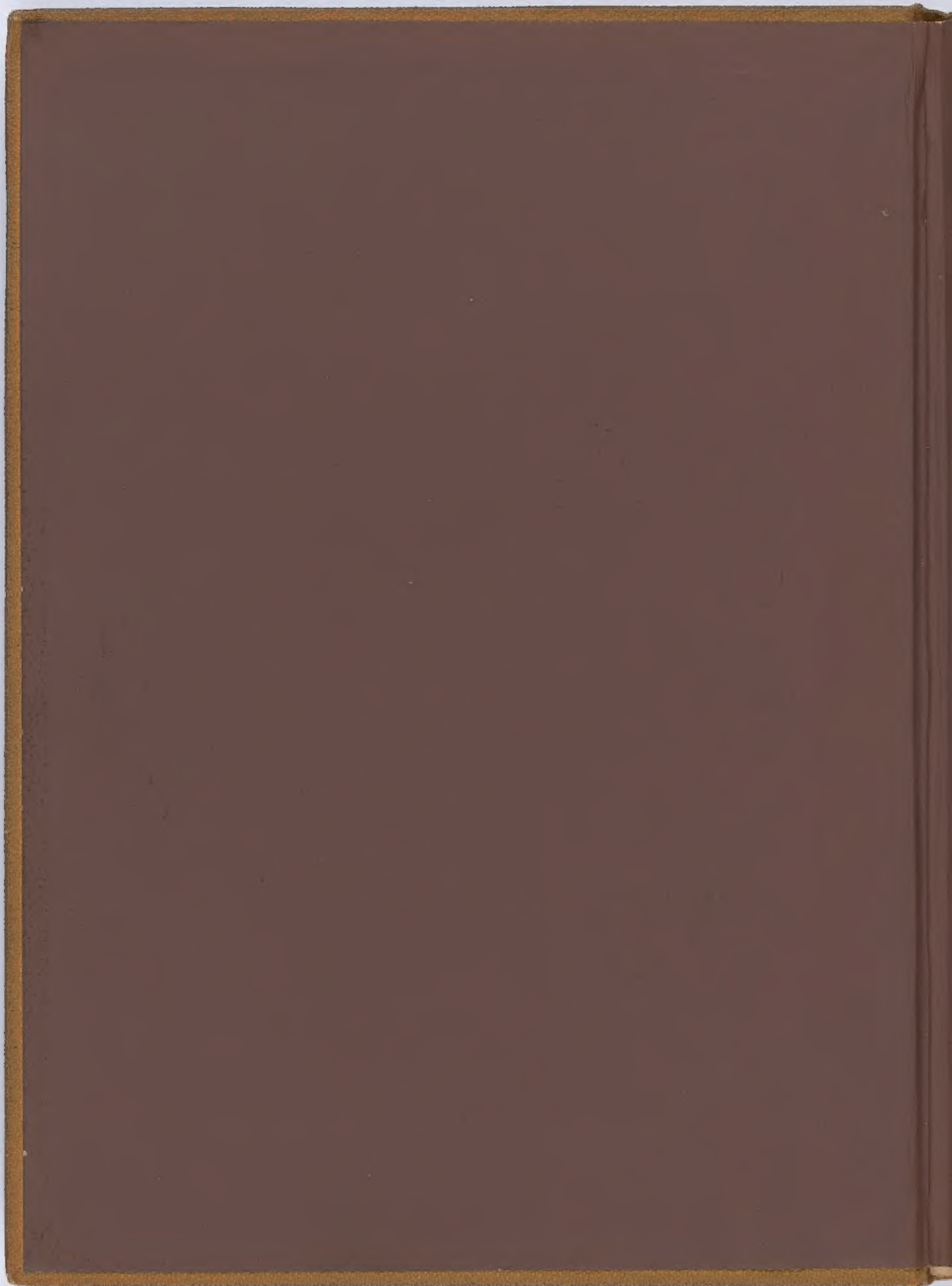
Concerning Carpets.

and

Art Decoration

of FLOORS







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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.



Concerning Carpets
AND
Art Decoration of Floors.



THE following pages are designed to convey to readers who have no special knowledge of the matter, or who cannot command the opportunity of extended actual examination in the vast warehouses of London, some suggestive information on the subject of Carpets and Floor Coverings, which objects have so large a part in the economy of luxury and splendid display, as well as in the material comfort of our modern life. There has been an astounding development in England during the past thirty years, not only of decorative art work—particularly applied to floor-coverings—but in the appreciation by the public of such work. Wonders of trade, with marvels of trade enterprise have resulted. Not only has the

civilised world been searched to minister to the need, but even semi-barbarous tribes have been made, or taught, to supply their work of this kind ; and in London now, so many and so various are the productions of distant looms that are offered for sale, and so continual are the developments of the Home and Continental industries in this respect, that information derived from an exceptional observation of the trade may be welcome, as well as practically useful. From a standpoint such as this, it is almost startling to reflect, at the same time, how comparatively modern is the extended use of Carpets in this country and in Western Europe, and how remotely ancient in the East, whence they first came to us. The manufacture of woollen Carpets in France is little more than 250 years old ; in England, little more than a century.

The most potent influence of nascent civilisation is the religious, and in its earliest stages the authority of the civil power is linked with it. These influences first create a demand for the appanages of display for ceremonial or luxurious grandeur ; to them art first ministers, after the barest needs of ordinary living ; and such indigenous art is a reflex of the local natural conditions of existence. Carpets and Tapestries, even in the nomadic tent, doubtless, had their origin thus, in the very cradle-lands of civilisation in the East ; and still, in the same regions, the peasant weaver succeeds the unbroken line of his weaver ancestors, and almost by instinct produces the traditional patterns that are so prized among us now, exercising

an artistic spell by their beauty which is quite distinctive, quite characteristic. We mark with wonder how little of their quality is due to mere appliances. All their excellence is of human work, little of it due to mechanical means. Such are the fine examples of Indian, Persian, and some other Oriental Carpets. There can be no doubt that Carpets and Tapestries—it is not easy to distinguish between them—were used for temple ceremonies, and palatial decoration in the very earliest times by the primal civilisations, the Indian, Egyptian, Syrian, Phœnician, Persian; and probably in some of our fine examples we possess now works of similar pattern by tradition.

To the Oriental mind a Carpet is not merely a floor-covering; it is a picture, a work of art, its designs are symbolical, and each colouring has its hidden meaning. Sir George Birdwood states that at formal receptions three Carpets are used, called "*κivapi*" or border Carpets, one being laid across the top of the room or tent, and one extending from each end along the length, after the shape of the Greek letter *II*. The host sits on the cross Carpet; the guests right and left; the central space being occupied by the servants, musicians, dancers, or performers. In this part, it may have been that the daughter of Herodias danced before Herod. The Persians dine seated on such Carpets spread upon a raised couch or continuous divan round the room. Carpets or Rugs were originally and are now used by Oriental nations for sitting or reclining, for kneeling and prostration at devotion, as well as for

sleeping. Probably the beds mentioned in Scripture were simply Carpets or Rugs.

The records of Carpets, though not numerous, date back to very remote periods. The priests of Heliopolis, the "City of the Sun," used them for religious ceremonies. In the palaces and the high ceremonies of the Pharaohs they were employed as decorations ; the most recent discoveries confirm this. The Hebrews gained the art of embroidering and weaving fine linen while they were in Egypt, Pausanias speaks of the fine linen of Palestine as an acknowledged wonder. The same people had gold beaten into thin plates that could be cut into threads, which were interwoven in the "broidered work" with blue, purple and scarlet. The Carpets of the Homeric age (about 900 B.C.) are described as being generally plain white or coloured cloths, but having sometimes handsome designs embroidered in colours on them. Other early references to Carpets state that at the wedding supper of Iphicrates, in Thrace, purple Carpets were spread upon the ground "all along the market ;" while Athenæus (B. v., c. 26) records that at the magnificent banquet given by Ptolemy Philadelphus (as described by Callixenus of Rhodes) there were two hundred golden couches, under which were laid purple Carpets of the finest wool each having a pattern on both sides ; there were also elaborately embroidered Rugs of beautiful design. Besides these, there were thin Persian cloths covering all the central places where the guests walked, and

embroidered upon these cloths were most accurate representations of animals. It will be recalled that in the East the people now sit round the Carpet,—in many cases almost the only furniture of the room, and always its chief ornament.

Pliny says (B. viii. 48) that the Babylonians were very skilful in weaving cloths of divers colours. The designs usually employed appear to have been groups of human figures, or of fabulous animals, such as the dragon, sphinx, and griffin. Such fabrics, the historian states, were numbered amongst the luxuries of Heliogabalus. Arrian states that on the tomb of Cyrus, the great Persian monarch, built at Pasargadae, the spot where he gained his crowning victory over the Medes, was spread a purple Babylonish Carpet, while another covered the bed whereon his body lay. Babylonish Cloths were famous during the Roman Empire. As an example of the enormous prices then paid for such productions, it may be mentioned that the tapestry used for the hangings of one of the Emperor Nero's dining rooms cost about 4,000,000 sesterces, equal to nearly £32,300. These tapestries are referred to by Plautus in one of his plays.

Hippocras, writing about B.C. 500, speaks of the Carpets of Miletus being famous; these, however, were probably Circassian, brought to the port of Miletus for sale, and thus deriving their name from their mart.

Oriental Carpets appear to have been first introduced into Spain by the Moors. A bishop of Toledo is mentioned as having his floors covered with tapestry

about the year 1255. The Venetians afterwards imported them into Italy, and supplied Western Europe. But a century before that they were known as rare luxuries in isolated cases. They were probably brought from the East by returning crusaders. Eleanor, queen of Edward I., about 1285, is said to have had Carpets in use, but the custom was then considered luxurious and effeminate, and did not grow in public estimation. There is frequent reference to Carpets, and testimony to their beauty, magnificence and costliness in the literature of the middle ages and in the illuminated pages of contemporary romances.

When first introduced among the communities of the West, carpets were employed as table covers, for covering couches, chairs, and other articles of furniture, and were placed before Altars and Chairs of State. Later on we find that in 1596 Richard Bellasio, of Morton, in the county of Durham, bequeathed to his nephew his "best Turkey Carpet for the long table and other Carpets for cupboards within the great chamber at Morton." The fashion of employing Carpets or Rugs as furniture coverings has been revived of late. Easy chairs, settees, small chairs, occasional tables, ottomans, footstools, &c., for use in the library and morning room, are frequently covered in these fabrics, or with Persian saddle bags, and the fashion is likely to remain for some time to come.

What is known as Baldekin, or Bagdad Tapestry, was a Carpet inwrought with gold and silver threads, that was carried upon poles as a canopy or covering

over the host and those of his guests whom he specially delighted to honour. Many of the troubadours or wandering minstrels of the thirteenth century had gold-embroidered Carpets in use. These were carried with them, and laid, when required, upon the ground. The high-born damsels of the age of chivalry found their amusement, as now, in embroidery and fancy needle-work; hearthrugs and throne Carpets, sometimes trimmed with fringe and gorgeously emblazoned with heraldic and other devices, were their favourite handiwork. It is related that the footcloth or Carpet of Queen Catherine of France, used at the tournament of the Field of the Cloth of Gold, was embroidered with pearls.

Checked mattings appear to have been in use during the fifteenth century. In Lydgate's *Life of St. Edmund* there is a sketch of the room in which the saint is supposed to have been born, the floor of which is shown to be covered with checked matting. A fringed hearth-rug is laid before the fire-place. About that time, too, Carpets of interlaced strips of leather, made in the fashion of our present list hearthrugs, seem to have been in vogue—examples of these are preserved in some of our museums.

In the reign of Edward VI., of pious memory (1547-53), Eastern Carpets were sometimes placed before the communion tables; a custom lately revived in many Churches. Indian and Persian as well as Turkey Carpets have been specially supplied for this purpose, the deep rich colourings being considered peculiarly

appropriate to the "dim religious light" of the Chancel. The result has been so satisfactory that the practice is extending.

St. Thomas a'Beckett, in the twelfth century, was chidden for his luxury because he had his presence chambers "each day" strewn with clean straw or hay. Rushes were used for strewing the floors of Hampton Court Palace in the time of Cardinal Wolsey, who was also considered extravagant and even censured for causing them to be changed every day. The audience chamber of Queen Mary was strewn with rushes, though her successor, Queen Elizabeth, had the luxury of a Turkey Carpet. In the inventory of Archbishop Parkes' furniture and effects, taken about 1577, a handsome black velvet Carpet, fringed with silver and gold and lined with taffeta, is mentioned.

The costliness of foreign Carpets as articles of luxury in Europe, and the rarity as well as value of hand-worked tapestries, stimulated at this time attempts to start home manufacture. In Hakluyt's "Voyages," published in 1582, there is a suggestion that if "a singular good workman in the art of Turkish Carpet making" could be obtained, it would be possible advantageously to introduce the art into this country. Previous to this, however, in the time of Henry VIII., William Shelton had endeavoured to establish the manufacture, but without much success. However, in the reign of James I., a factory was established at Mortlake, in Surrey. The King gave his patronage and contributed to it the large sum (for those days) of £2,600, besides

bringing over a number of French weavers to assist in teaching the art and developing the scheme. Acton Taylor, in his interesting "History of the Carpet Trade," tells us that "The earliest designs at Mortlake were principally old patterns, but as the trade progressed Francis Cleyn, an eminent artist, furnished original and grotesque scenes in great perfection." Still comparatively little progress was made here in the general development of Carpet manufacturing till after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, when weavers of all classes fled in great numbers to England for safety, and settled down in various parts of the country, thus introducing their craft. For during this period considerable progress had been made in France. Between 1589 and 1610 the art was introduced there from Persia. In 1664 the sagacious Colbert, who did so much for weaving in France, established a carpet factory at Beauvais, which, still a Government establishment, to this day sends out many artistic specimens. But the Edict of Nantes being revoked, not only deprived France of thousands of her best workmen, but established her rivals in carpet-weaving. A number of the weavers settled at Wilton, near Salisbury, and in the year 1701, on presenting a complaint to the king, William III., setting forth their difficulty of obtaining a livelihood by their "art and mystery," because of persons who had served no lawful apprenticeship taking upon themselves to carry on the said trade of weaving, they obtained a charter, which appears to have been confirmed or renewed in 1706, and again

in 1725. By these charters the weavers were formed into a corporate body, with power to grant stamped certificates to those who had served at least seven years' apprenticeship, and were elected as members. Persons not members of the body were not allowed to carry on the business within four miles of Wilton.

In the year 1735 the manufacture of Carpets was commenced at Kidderminster, in Worcestershire. The fabric then produced was the same as is still known by the name of, though no longer produced at, Kidderminster. A very large quantity of Brussels Carpets are now made in that town.

About the year 1740 the art of weaving Brussels Carpets was introduced into Wilton. Probably the name "Brussels" is derived from the early manufacture of that kind of Carpet in the Belgian capital ; or possibly from its being made by Brussels' weavers ; but on this there is no definite information. It was an important advance. But it is to Henry, ninth Earl of Pembroke and sixth Earl of Montgomery, that England is indebted for the introduction of the manufacture of better kinds of Carpets, thus forming a new industry for the people, and a fresh branch of English commerce. The Earl was a man of refined taste who spent large sums of money in adorning and beautifying his magnificent seat at Wilton. With a view of carrying out his philanthropic and patriotic scheme, this nobleman arranged with a number of artists and skilled weavers to come over to England, and a manufactory was established at Wilton,

under the active superintendence of two Frenchmen, Anthony Duffosy and Peter Jemaule, who, Mr. Acton Taylor states, were brought over from France concealed in a barrel.

Thus in this little Wiltshire town was commenced the manufacture in England of what are now known as Brussels, Wilton, and Axminster Carpets—for though the weavers lost their noble patron by death in 1751, in 1768 the Royal Wilton manufactory employed about 80 hands ; but by the end of the century had increased that number to about 900. The trade is still continued, and at the present time some of the very finest specimens of English hand-made Carpets come from the looms at Wilton. It must be mentioned that the “Axminster” Carpets, the manufacture of which is now identified with Wilton, were first produced at Axminster, a little town on the River Axe, in Devonshire, where a factory was set up about the year 1755. It was carried on until 1835, when, on the bankruptcy of the proprietor, the business was transferred to Wilton.

About the year 1750, a Mr. Moore was awarded a premium by the Society of Arts for the best example of an imitation Turkey Carpet ; and Parisot conducted a manufactory of these goods at Paddington under the patronage of the Duke of Cumberland.

Various improvements in the processes of manufacture took place in succeeding years, perhaps the most notable being those brought about by the introduction of the Jacquard loom. This invention, which

Dr. Ure says was based upon a model machine of Vancauson, was introduced into England about 1812. In 1825, what is known as three-ply Carpet, was invented by Archibald Lorimer, a weaver of Kilmarnock. In 1832, printed warp Brussels Carpet, termed Tapestry Brussels, was first made, by the method ingeniously devised by Mr. James Whytock, of Edinburgh. Carpets manufactured in this manner, but with various improvements, have since been produced in immense quantities at Halifax.

The period since the Great Exhibition of 1851 has witnessed a prodigious extension of the using of Carpets. During that time costly Eastern Carpets have been popularised; English Carpets, instead of being the luxury, if not of the wealthy, still only of the fairly well-to-do, are to be met with in almost every house; and a complete change for the better has come about in the designs and colourings. Looking back over the period covered by the preceding pages, a transformation seems to have taken place! A real progress has been attained, not only in processes of manufacture, but in the refinement of our artistic taste, that can welcome and reward fine work from whatever quarter it comes, and under which our own home industries increase and prosper.





On the Choice of Floor Coverings.

BEFORE commencing to describe more particularly the different kinds of floor coverings in connection with the apartments for which they are deemed most suitable, it may be well to make a few general observations as to what should guide our choice of material, texture, tone and pattern.

Appropriateness is essential. If the material is to be merely something to cover the boards, or in that degree to increase the comfort of the apartment, then it is a matter of comparatively little moment what fabric or design or colours are decided on; but if the furnishing be regarded as part of the decoration of the apartment, then the selection of it becomes a matter of primary importance. Indeed, the floor covering is the foundation upon which the superstructure is to be reared, the basis of operations, the beginning of decoration, and a background, so to speak, for more ornate parts of the work.

For this, amongst other reasons, the floor covering should be chosen before any decision is made as to the wall or the window hangings and the general decorations. Not only is this commencing at the right place,

but the hangings, as well as the tones and colours used in decorating, can be far more quickly and satisfactorily arrived at by suiting them to the floor covering than that can be brought specially to harmonise with them.

The design and colourings then should be selected with the idea that the Carpet is to be the basis of operations. The old large sprawling patterns have happily had their day. Mr. Robert W. Edis, F.S.A., thus humorously describes one of them in his *Lecture on Furniture and Decoration*: "A green Carpet, with peaceful lilies intertwining with each other; a hearth-rug with a Bengal tiger, ill at ease, with his back to the fire and his face to the lilies; and a footstool, covered with Berlin wool representing the pet dog of the period very much astonished at his proximity to the aforesaid tiger." Radiating, or "all over" patterns, are decidedly preferable to bilateral designs, groups of flowers, ferns, &c., for while the latter may be appropriate for wall decorations, where they are always viewed, to use a homely expression, "right way uppermost," yet when they are applied to floor coverings, to be approached in various directions, the effect is in many respects most objectionable. Perhaps the perfection of artistic design and colouring is when the result is a pleasing and harmonious expression, leaving with the casual spectator no exact impresssion of the details of the design or arrangement of the colours, but simply the remembrance of an agreeable effect. Such patterns improve upon acquaintance; further and closer examination reveals the skilfully-arranged design and dis-

covers the clever combination of colouring which has produced the pleasing result.

It is perhaps hardly necessary to say that as a rule a large pattern should not be chosen for a small room. A small all-over design certainly tends to make the floor space appear more extended.

The colourings chosen should be soft, rich and deep. Such harmonies are always found in the Carpets of Eastern manufacture, even in the most gorgeous. Of late years a marked improvement has taken place in those of our own country, both in the cheaper as well as the better classes. The old hard, bright, staring shades not only painfully proclaim their newness, but have a tendency to ruin the effect of other furniture or decoration, and to make what is worn or shabby seem still shabbier.

Much has been written in disparagement of "Upholsterers' Art," especially in regard to decoration; and, in fact, of their taste and judgment in matters beyond the mere vending of their wares. While candidly admitting that many of the criticisms have been justly merited, yet it should be borne in mind that there are upholsterers and upholsterers; those who aim at nothing more than selling so much furniture or other commodities for so much money, with little or no interest beyond, and those who have higher aims.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have for many years past devoted special and personal attention, not only to the sale, but also to the production of furniture. Many of their Carpets, curtain fabrics and mural decorations,

are produced specially to their own artists' designs ; and, as occasion requires, fabrics are specially woven for their customers' requirements.

Further—and more particularly in regard to Carpets—it must in fairness be admitted that they who are continually dealing with these goods necessarily become so thoroughly acquainted with their characteristics as to be able to explain the peculiarities of them, and to advise as to their suitability for particular purposes. It will also be granted that a high class firm having gained, and desiring to retain, a good reputation, will be more anxious to advise an intending purchaser to select what will be likely to be satisfactory in wear and effect, rather than that which is most easily sold or bears the largest profit. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. feel that their extensive practical knowledge and experience enable them to offer to those about to furnish suggestions and advice of real value. The large orders which they are continually discharging for *complete* furnishing testify by results to their position—which they value—as artistic furnishers, exercising scrupulous personal care, albeit in conjunction with the most extended operations and resources.

These remarks apply particularly to Oriental Carpets, for while with English goods there are certain regulated standards of quality and recognised price lists, there are absolutely no such guides for goods of Eastern manufacture. It is therefore impossible to satisfactorily answer the question, "How much are your best Turkey Carpets per square yard?" From

the peculiarity of its make, each Carpet varies from its fellow. To adopt an uniform price without corresponding equality of value would be manifestly unfair. The system Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have acted on for many years has been that of having every Carpet critically examined by their agents in the East before shipment. Carpets that are inferior in colour or quality or badly made are not allowed to pass, and each Carpet is bought at, and sold for, its real value. That there is no uniformity of quality should be borne in mind. It by no means follows that the Carpet which is the lowest in price is necessarily the cheapest; in fact, the reverse is often the case. In buying valuable articles such as Eastern Carpets, of the intrinsic value of which private individuals can have comparatively little knowledge, it is desirable not only to deal with a firm of the highest commercial reputation, but also with one having a large trade in that particular class of goods. For not only is there the advantage of a much more varied stock to select from, but the knowledge that a good name has to be maintained.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. consider that they owe very much of their unparalleled success in developing the Oriental Carpet trade to the fact that, being importers on the very largest scale, they enjoy an almost unique position in the markets. They have resident agents in the East, and are in direct communication with the actual makers of the goods. These agents being on the spot, have the choice of the market, so

that not only is the intermediary or middleman's profit saved, but specimens are secured and shipped that are rarely, if ever, offered to those buyers who have no such facilities as are possessed by Messrs. MAPLE & Co. Another feature of their Eastern Carpet trade is that, doing so very large a business, they are able to sell at much lower prices than any firm not similarly situated could afford to do. The customer who buys a Carpet in ordinary circumstances necessarily pays two profits—that of the importer or merchant and that of the retailer. A third cause of their success has been that they deal solely with selected Carpets, of sound quality and in good condition, so that even a novice in house furnishing may select or order from their stock with every confidence, having regard to quality, condition and value.

And here a word of caution may properly be uttered as to the public buying Eastern Carpets at "sales." This method of trade is usually adopted to dispose of goods which have received damage, or are of decidedly inferior quality. It frequently happens that imported Carpets have received some irreparable injury, such as having been wetted by sea water on their way to England; this rots them, but the evil is not apparent till they have been in wear perhaps for a year or two, when the Carpet literally falls to pieces. Such Carpets have mostly found their way to the purchaser through a "sale." Sometimes to tempt the unwary, or to catch those fond of a bargain, such goods are represented as "second hand," that being a

very plausible statement under which many imperfect, low quality, or poorly coloured specimens are disposed of. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. insure their Carpets against all sea risks, so that if any are damaged, the full value is recovered from the underwriters, who probably send the spoiled goods to a public sale for disposal.

A list of sizes and prices of Eastern Carpets is not issued herein because the great stock held by Messrs. MAPLE & Co. is so constantly changing in detail, sometimes as many as fifty Carpets being sold in a single day, and fresh consignments so continually arriving, that a printed list would be only misleading. On receipt of particulars of what is required, accompanied by a rough plan with exact measurement of the room where the Carpet is intended to be laid, the firm will always be happy to forward quotations, and a description of suitable Carpets; and where a visit to the warehouse is inconvenient arrangements can be made for sending several Carpets on approval. In writing for quotations it is always better to send fairly exact measurements; approximate dimensions are misleading. Recently an absurd demand for Turkey Carpets for a price at which a fair quality could not be produced, led to the manufacture of a number of very inferior Carpets, which, though only sold to the smaller English buyers at about 11s. the square yard, could, even then by no means be justly termed cheap.

A question often asked is, "Why do you recommend us to buy Eastern Carpets—cannot England, the greatest manufacturing country in the world, with all

its enterprise, capital, machinery and appliances, give us Carpets as good and as cheap?" In reply it must be said that certainly our English weavers can produce hand made Carpets of as good quality and as durable as anything that India, Persia, or Turkey can send us, but not at the price. The Indian weaver, for example, with his frugal, simple habits, is content with a wage of about 4s. per week, a smaller sum than many an English workman has to pay for rent. The art having been carried on for thousands of years, the village system tending to localize the manufacture and the caste system to perpetuate the craft, the workers have attained to such a degree of proficiency as to be able to produce nearly, if not quite, as much in the same time as an English artificer. Therefore it is, that a Carpet, which, for a square yard, would cost at least 20s. in England (and this with the assistance of machinery of the most improved description), is produced in India for about 10s. The expense lies, in the difficulty of getting the goods, when made, down to the ports; this, however, has been largely reduced by the development of canals, railways, &c., the charges are now at least one-fourth less than they were twenty years ago. These remarks apply equally to the similar manufactures of Persia and Turkey.

The modern fashion of a central Carpet with a surrounding space of *parqueterie*, or like material, has many advantages. It is to be commended not only on sanitary grounds but for its convenience and economy. A central Carpet can be so much more readily taken up,

beaten or shaken, and replaced than one passing under the various articles of furniture. The old system not only involved much waste of, in many cases, costly material, and afforded traps for dust and "fluff," but also when the Carpet had to be taken up necessitated workmen being called in to remove and replace the heavy pieces of furniture. A further advantage is that a central Carpet can more easily be transferred to another apartment than a Carpet made to the plan of the room, especially if it has been cut to fit bays or recesses.

We now proceed to speak of the several apartments, commencing with the Reception Rooms.





The Dining Room.

THE Carpet, *par excellence*, for this room is a Turkey, and when its wondrous durability is taken into consideration there is nothing more economical. These Carpets are manufactured principally at Ushak, or Ouchak, in the province of Aidin, about six days' journey from Smyrna. Rugs of a similar character are also made in the adjacent village of Koulah, and in the provinces of Khodavendikiar, Adana, Nish, the districts of Bozrah, the city of Aleppo, and the villages of Trebizond.

There are no large manufactories there as in England. The Carpets are the work of single families and households, and ordinarily are sold to the keepers of the bazaars or stores, through whose hands they find their way to European purchasers. As already mentioned, Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have a resident agent at Smyrna, taking the first choice of Carpets direct from the local weavers; and another at Ouchak, where the goods are made under the agent's direct personal superintendence. Thus they have unusual facilities for making Turkey Carpets of special or unusual sizes, or of particular colourings. They have for some years past been collecting at great pains examples of the

very finest Turkish Carpets ; these have been sent to the agent at Smyrna to be copied, and the stock in Tottenham Court Road now includes many Carpets equal both in colour and quality to the very best of those produced in the 17th century.

The loom on which a Turkey Carpet is made is of the most simple kind. It consists of two upright and two cross beams, from the upper of which depend the warp threads. The weaver deftly knots or ties the wool round two of the warp threads. When a row has been done in this way the weft thread is introduced, being pressed up into its place by an implement termed a lay. This process is repeated, the woven part being wound round the lower beam, till the Carpet is finished. It will thus be seen that any number of colors can be introduced, and the design and quality varied in the course of weaving. The occasional irregularity of pattern sometimes noticed is thus partly explained. The design is invariably woven from memory, its details being handed down as a tradition from generation to generation. The designs are peculiar and do not resemble any object in nature more nearly than possibly a rude outline of leaves—they are supposed by some authorities to be in imitation of inlaid jewelled work. The colourings are deep red, blue, green, and occasionally a mixture of orange. The red dye used is cochineal, made from a small insect of a deep mulberry colour that feeds on several species of cactus ; the insects are scraped from the plants into bags, then

killed in boiling water and dried in the sun. They yield when rubbed a brilliant crimson. As many as 70,000 insects are said to be required to make a single pound of dye. It is imported into England from the Azores, and then exported to Turkey. The old madder red which Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have re-introduced is obtained from madder root; the dye from this is not so bright as that from cochineal and therefore sometimes pleases better.

In general effect a Turkey Carpet is rich, warm and comfortable; it is suggestive of the good taste and affluent circumstances of its possessor, while its tendency is to enhance the good appearance of the furniture and surroundings. Turkey Carpets are kept in stock in an immense variety of sizes, ranging from about 6 feet square up to 36 feet by 24 feet.

The "Nomad" Carpets, now very much used for the dining room, are similar in texture to Turkey. They come from Northern Persia, and are reproductions of some of the finest specimens of antique Persian examples. In them has been overcome the difficulty of obtaining the soft and beautiful tints hitherto only found in the finest prayer rugs, which are of sizes unsuitable for Carpets, besides being very costly. Nomad Carpets present great variety, both in style of design and colourings, possessing many of the characteristics of both Turkish and Persian art. Some have plain brown, crimson, old gold or camel centres, with handsome borders; others have grey or mouse-colour grounds, with an all-over pattern in red, blue, old gold or green;

while those on red or blue grounds present an effect similar to a Turkey Carpet, though the design is of Persian character. The prices are very little higher than for Turkey Carpets, and from the manner in which the "Nomads" have been appreciated, they seem destined to have an immense sale.

Indian Carpets are also suitable for use in the dining room. Those known as Mirzapore, deriving their name from Mirzapur, or Mirzapore, a district in the north-west province of India, are the least expensive kind that can be recommended; and the prices just now are exceedingly favourable, one large enough for a room, say 15 to 16 feet long by 12 to 13 feet wide, costing only about £8 to £10. These Carpets are very thick, deep in pile, and specially suitable where great warmth and luxurious softness to the tread are desired. The colourings are usually black, cream, dull crimson, orange or pale greyish blue grounds, with distinct borders, and central patterns in Indian red, blue, orange, camel, and occasionally a little green or white.

Another description of Carpets suitable for the dining room is that known as Jubbulpore. These take their name from Jabalpur or Jubbulpore, a flourishing town in the central province of India, which, since the development of the railway system, has become a place of great importance. The Carpets are made in the School of Industry, and, unlike the productions of many such institutions, have retained much of the true Indian character of design and colour. The pile is

short and close, the colourings bright and warm, and the fabric very durable.

Masulipatam, Ellore, Agra, Lahore, and Hyderabad Carpets are occasionally sold for the dining-room, but as they are perhaps rather more appropriate for the drawing room, a description of them will be found under that heading.

Oriental, and indeed all Pile Carpets, should be swept evenly, not roughly, with a carpet whisk or broom of fibre, and the sweeping should be in the direction of the pile. No alarm need be felt if, during the first few weeks after the Carpet has been laid, loose wool should come away in sweeping. It is only loose wool, and will gradually diminish in quantity till it ceases altogether. Should it, however, seem to increase after some weeks, it is well to communicate with the firm from whom the Carpet has been purchased. If bought from Messrs. MAPLE & Co., or from others who might be named, that have regard for their business reputation, there will be no lack of disposition to have what is wrong set right.

Of English-made Pile Carpets, those known as hand-made Axminster occupy the first place. Concerning those manufactured at Wilton, Mr. L. L. Jewitt, F.S.A., the editor of the "Reliquary," and an eminent art authority, says:—"The hand-made 'finger-work' Carpets are of the most costly and sumptuous character, and are unequalled either in point of massiveness, in delicate softness, in closeness and length of pile, in artistic and effective designs, and in

brilliancy of colouring." These Carpets, like those of Turkey, are woven by hand, and in every respect deserve the warm commendation just quoted. The principal stairs and landings of the magnificent First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, are covered with this Carpet, which was supplied (as indeed was the whole of the furnishings) by Messrs. MAPLE & Co. Visitors to the hotel will thus have the opportunity of seeing this most luxurious fabric in actual wear.

Carpets of this description can be produced in a great variety of designs, and of any size. They are almost invariably made to order. Messrs. MAPLE & Co., however, always keep a few in stock.

A less expensive kind of Pile Carpet is that known as Patent Axminster, often termed by those who have comparatively little knowledge of the trade "Real Axminster." This fabric, like the hand-made Carpets previously mentioned, is woven in one piece throughout, upon a principle invented by Mr. Templeton, of Glasgow. They are often made in Indian, Persian and Turkish designs and colourings, also in floral, geometrical and other patterns. The complete effect of a well harmonised arrangement is very rich, handsome and pleasing. The prices range from 14s. to about 35s. a yard. In comparing quotations for this fabric, it must be borne in mind that the price is governed not only by the quality and quantity of material, but by the character and even colours of the design, and by the shape and size to which it is to be made. It will therefore be seen that it is necessary to go fully into

details in order to form a correct judgment as to which firm is really offering the lowest and best terms. A quality Messrs. MAPLE & Co. frequently make for their customers, that can be supplied in a great number of patterns, costs about a guinea a square yard ; one rather heavier, and recommended in preference, costs about 24s. A large assortment of sample pieces can be sent for choice, when desired, or complete Carpets can be seen in the warehouse.

The same fabric, made by power, can also be supplied by the yard, 27 inches wide, for prices varying from 7s. 9d. to 8s. 9d. per yard. It can be made up to any size, with border to match.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have also a make of thick pile Royal Axminster which they can offer for as low a price as 5s. 9d. per yard. A central Carpet, bordered, can be made up of this complete, say 13 feet 6 inches long by 9 feet 9 inches wide, sufficiently large for a room 16 to 17 feet long by 13 feet wide, for rather less than £7. Some designs, however, waste more than others in matching, and this necessarily influences the exact complete cost. The Royal Axminster is supplied in an immense variety of designs, and some beautiful colourings, and presents a wonderfully rich and elegant effect at a comparatively low price.

An improvement on this make of Pile Carpets is that known as Wool-back Royal Axminster ; this comes at 6s. 6d. per yard, while a still better quality, and one which Messrs. MAPLE & Co. decidedly recommend for its handsome and beautiful effect, as well as for its

durability, is the Super Royal Axminster. This fabric is 9s. 9d. per yard, 2 feet 3 inches wide, and has all the appearance of a Patent Axminster woven in one piece, and costing three times as much. Many of the Carpets put forward and profusely advertised as "Anglo-Oriental" are nothing more than the cheaper species of Axminster in Eastern designs and colours.

The Wilton Pile Carpets have a very rich velvety appearance, and are now being made in some really exquisite designs and colourings. This fabric is again taking the place which for its beauty of effect, as well as for its durability, it really deserves. Mr. Jewitt, F.S.A., in the article before quoted, says, "A Wilton Carpet indicates a high degree of refinement in furnishing, and its enduring quality gives it a strong recommendation." Mr. Jewitt's praise is certainly deserved. In no other fabric for floor coverings approximating to the price can the same soft rich bloomy effect be attained. The prices are very moderate, but little more indeed than best Brussels; ranging from 5s. 3d. to 6s. 9d. per yard; some indeed are as low as 4s. 8d., but the better qualities are to be recommended.

Next in order come the Brussels or loop pile Carpets, which are more largely sold than any other fabric for the dining room. A generation ago, what was recognised as "five-frame" quality, was considered to be the best, and was invariably recommended by high class firms. The fierce competition, however, of later years, and the craving on the part of some sections of the public for Carpets at low prices, irrespective of

actual quality and value, has led to considerable deviation from the old standards of quality, so that to-day the term "five-frame" is no longer an absolute guarantee as to the value of the Carpet. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have what they term "Manufacturer's five-frame Brussels," priced so low as 3s. per yard; and the best goods of approved quality in all the newest designs at from 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d., while they have an *extra quality*, guaranteed to wear, made from selected wools, and every yard branded on the back "MAPLE," which they recommend to those who wish for a very good and enduring Carpet; this special quality comes at 4s. 3d. per yard. The Brussels Carpets at 3s. are frequently sold for dining rooms, but it is certainly truer economy to buy the better qualities.

A layer of brownish drab felt, called underfelt, not only preserves the Carpet, but makes it much softer to the tread, protects it also from the inequalities of the floor, and thus causes it to wear longer; this fabric is 46 inches wide, price 15d. to 18d. per yard. Other materials used for this purpose are coarse Hessian, about 54 inches wide, 4½d. the yard; Glenpatrick or wadded brown paper, 36 inches wide, 5d. a yard; Boulinikon, a thick soft paper, 6d. per yard; and ordinary stout brown paper at 3d. the yard; both about 54 inches wide.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. append a list of very useful made-up Carpets in sizes ranging from 9 feet by 9 feet, up to 18 feet by 15 feet 9 inches. This list includes Tapestry Brussels Carpets, frequently sold

for parlours and dining rooms, where something less expensive than Brussels is wished for. Tapestry Brussels Carpets are made in some very good patterns, and are durable. In rooms, however, where there is hard and constant wear, a Brussels is more economical in the long run.

On comparing prices of these made up Carpets, it will be found that they come out rather less than if the material be chosen by the yard, and made up to order. The reason for this is that they are frequently made from Carpets which from various causes Messrs. MAPLE & Co. are able to sell under the regular price ; in many cases because there are only one or two rolls of the particular pattern in stock, which have been bought from the manufacturers at a clearing-out price. In consideration of the material being selected by themselves the concession in price is made ; so that sample patterns of the made-up Carpets cannot be sent. But customers residing at a distance, on describing the decorations of the room, and their preference for particular colouring, may rely upon a suitable choice being made by an experienced person who is specially appointed to select for customers when the choice is left to the firm.

On reference to the list it will be seen that a very best five-frame Brussels Carpet, 13 feet 6 inches by 11 feet 3 inches, suitable for a room 17 feet by 14 feet, can be supplied for £4. 8s. 6d., and other sizes in proportion ; and the list also contains sizes and prices of lower qualities.

CLASS I.

STOUT USEFUL TAPESTRY BRUSSELS CARPETS (bordered).

ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.
9.0 by 9.0		10.6 by 9.0		12.0 by 9.0		13.6 by 9.0	
£1 7 0		£1 11 6		£1 16 0		£2 0 6	
12.0 by 11.3		13.6 by 11.3		15.0 by 11.3		15.0 by 13.6	
£2 5 0		£2 10 8		£2 16 3		£3 7 6	
16.6 by 11.3		16.6 by 13.6		18.0 by 15.9			
£3 2 0		£3 14 3		£4 14 6			

CLASS II.

BEST QUALITY TAPESTRY BRUSSELS (bordered).

ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.
9.0 by 9.0		10.6 by 9.0		12.0 by 9.0		13.6 by 9.0	
£1 13 0		£1 18 6		£2 4 0		£2 9 6	
12.0 by 11.3		13.6 by 11.3		13.6 by 13.6		15.0 by 11.3	
£2 15 0		£3 2 0		£3 14 3		£3 8 9	
15.0 by 13.6		16.6 by 11.3		16.6 by 13.6		18.0 by 15.9	
£4 2 6		£3 15 8		£4 10 9		£5 15 6	

CLASS III.

USEFUL STOUT BRUSSELS (bordered).

ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.
9.0 by 9.0		10.6 by 9.0		12.0 by 9.0		13.6 by 9.0	
£1 18 0		£2 4 4		£2 10 8		£2 17 0	
12.0 by 11.3		13.6 by 11.3		13.6 by 13.6		15.0 by 11.3	
£3 3 4		£3 11 3		£4 5 6		£3 19 2	
15.0 by 13.6		16.6 by 11.3		16.6 by 13.6		18.0 by 15.9	
£4 15 0		£4 7 0		£5 4 6		£6 13 0	

CLASS IV.

HANDSOME BRUSSELS CARPETS (bordered).

ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.
9.0 by 9.0		10.6 by 9.0		12.0 by 9.0		13.6 by 9.0	
£2 2 0		£2 9 0		£2 16 0		£3 3 0	

CLASS IV.—*continued.*

12.0 by 11.3 £3 10 0	13.6 by 11.3 £3 18 9	13.6 by 13.6 £4 14 6	15.0 by 11.3 £4 7 6
15.0 by 13.6 £5 5 0	16.6 by 11.3 £4 16 3	16.6 by 13.6 £5 15 6	18.0 by 15.9 £7 7 0

CLASS V.

VERY SUPERIOR BRUSSELS CARPETS, good designs (bordered).

ft. ft. 9.0 by 9.0 £2 3 9	ft. ft. 10.6 by 9.0 £2 10 9	ft. ft. 12.0 by 9.0 £2 18 0	ft. ft. 13.6 by 9.0 £3 6 0
12.0 by 11.3 £3 13 9	13.6 by 11.3 £4 3 6	13.6 by 13.6 £4 19 0	15.0 by 11.3 £4 11 8
15.0 by 13.6 £5 9 9	16.6 by 11.3 £5 1 0	16.6 by 13.6 £6 2 6	18.0 by 15.9 £7 14 3

CLASS VI.

VERY BEST FIVE-FRAME BRUSSELS CARPETS, handsome designs (bordered).

ft. ft. 9.0 by 9.0 £2 7 0	ft. ft. 10.6 by 9.0 £2 14 10	ft. ft. 12.0 by 9.0 £3 2 6	ft. ft. 13.6 by 9.0 £3 10 6
12.0 by 11.3 £3 18 6	13.6 by 11.3 £4 8 6	13.6 by 13.6 £5 5 9	15.0 by 11.3 £4 18 0
15.0 by 13.6 £5 17 0	16.0 by 11.3 £5 7 6	16.6 by 13.6 £6 9 6	18.0 by 15.9 £8 4 6

CLASS VII.

IMPERIAL WILTON PILE CARPETS, very elegant (bordered).

ft. ft. 9.0 by 9.0 £3 6 0	ft. ft. 10.6 by 9.0 £3 17 0	ft. ft. 12.0 by 9.0 £4 8 0	ft. ft. 12.0 by 11.3 £5 10 0
13.6 by 11.3 £6 3 9	13.6 by 13.6 £7 8 6	15.0 by 11.3 £6 17 6	15.0 by 13.6 £8 5 0
16.6 by 11.3 £7 11 3	16.6 by 13.6 £9 1 6	18.0 by 15.9 £11 11 0	21.0 by 18.0 £15 8 0

With regard to the purchasing of made-up Carpets, as well as of other articles, patterns of which it is not practicable for the purchaser to see before buying, there is sometimes a little hesitancy, lest the opportunity should be seized by the trader to get rid of some old or inferior article. Such advantage may, and doubtless has been, taken by persons who have no reputation to maintain; but Messrs. MAPLE & Co. desire it to be understood that in any case where their selection is not approved an exchange will be promptly and willingly made.

For the convenience of customers residing in the country, Messrs. MAPLE & Co. send out, on application, a large selection of patterns of any description of Carpets or floor coverings sold by the yard.

In writing for patterns it is advisable to state if there be preference for any particular colourings or style of design; in fact, to give as good a description of what is required as possible. Messrs. MAPLE'S stock never contains fewer than 1,000 different patterns and colourings in Brussels alone. If the Carpet is to harmonise with curtains or wall-papers already chosen, it will facilitate the selection of suitable patterns to enclose slips of the materials.

The Carpet having been chosen, the next consideration is a Hearthrug. A Rug is generally sold with a Turkey Carpet, but it is not considered indispensable. The sizes range from about 5 feet by 2 feet 4 inches to 9 feet by 5 feet; the prices from 22s. 6d. to £5.

For the Pile or Brussels Carpets an Axminster Rug

is most suitable; the prices are from 6s. 9d. to 40s. each. Those usually sold are about 5 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, 11s. 9d.; better quality, much more durable, 17s. 9d., and for large rooms the extra size 6 feet by 3 feet, 35s. to 40s. each.

But sometimes there are Carpets for which no Axminster Rugs are made to match; in that case, an Anglo-Indian Rug of short close pile, with handsome fringed ends, measuring, exclusive of the fringe, 5 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, can be had for 12s. 9d.; a Mecca Rug, of similar size and texture, but much better quality, costing 18s. 9d., or a Benares Rug, measuring 6 feet by 3 feet, at 18s. 9d., is frequently sold. These Rugs are of Oriental character and colourings, and it is not considered necessary that they should match the Carpet with which they are laid. The Anglo-Indian Rug is also made in a smaller size for window spaces, &c., price 7s. 6d., 4 feet by 2 feet.

Or, what is termed a "Town-made" Rug is specially woven to match the design and colours of the Carpet, and in size to suit the room in which it is to be placed. The price of this kind of Rug ranges from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per square foot. There are, however, some designs and colourings which cannot be satisfactorily produced in a "Town-made" Rug; and some Carpets for which it is not suitable; in such a case it is better to use a Sheepskin Rug, either in black, white, or of a colour to suit the Carpet. The great advantages of black or white Sheepskin Rugs are that not only will they harmonise with any Carpet, but they can be cleaned, when

soiled, and made to look almost equal to new, at a very small outlay. A Sheepskin Hearthrug of moderate size, will cost from 30s. to 50s. They can be supplied in any special size or colour at a few days' notice; the price for "Special" Rugs can always be ascertained on application to Messrs. MAPLE & Co.

Goatskin Rugs come at a much lower price, one of ordinary size costing about 8s. 6d. ; or if lined, making it stronger and more durable, about 9s. 6d. each.

Amongst foreign Fur Rugs, those chiefly used are the skins of the wolf and bear; the former range from 55s. upwards; the latter from £5 to £12. A favourite arrangement of the bearskins is a black centre, with brown surround, or *vice versa*; or the complete skin of a "grizzly" mounted on black. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. undertake the dressing and mounting of skins, also repairs and remounting.

The question of Carpet and Rug having been settled for the dining room, the surround, or covering for the margin left round the central Carpet, has to be considered. If an Oriental Carpet has been selected, and the floor of the room is not composed of parqueterie, it is better to have the surround of parqueterie of what is known as the "thin" make, which can be laid on the existing floor, and is only sufficiently thick to be on a level with the Carpet. The cost of this, polished, laid and finished, inclusive of all charges, is from 1s. 2d. per square foot; and if an accurate plan of the room be forwarded to Messrs. MAPLE & Co., they will prepare and forward without charge, a complete

estimate of the necessary outlay, and, if desired, sample pieces of the flooring. An excellent substitute for real parqueterie, and at a much lower price, is Linoleum; and again, oil floorcloth in imitation of inlaid woods, or polished oak boards. The price of the Linoleum is from 1s. 8d. to 3s. per square yard; stout floorcloth, 1s. 7½d., 2s. 4d. to 3s. 2d. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have recently introduced a make of thin floorcloth with painted back, for surrounds, which comes as low as 8½d. the square yard.

Another fabric much used as a surround is a thick plain felt, in olive, Indian red, peacock, mustard, or other colour; this material is 48 inches wide, 3s. 3d. to 4s. per yard; and as surrounds are usually from 18 to 24 inches wide, cuts to advantage, and wastes but little.

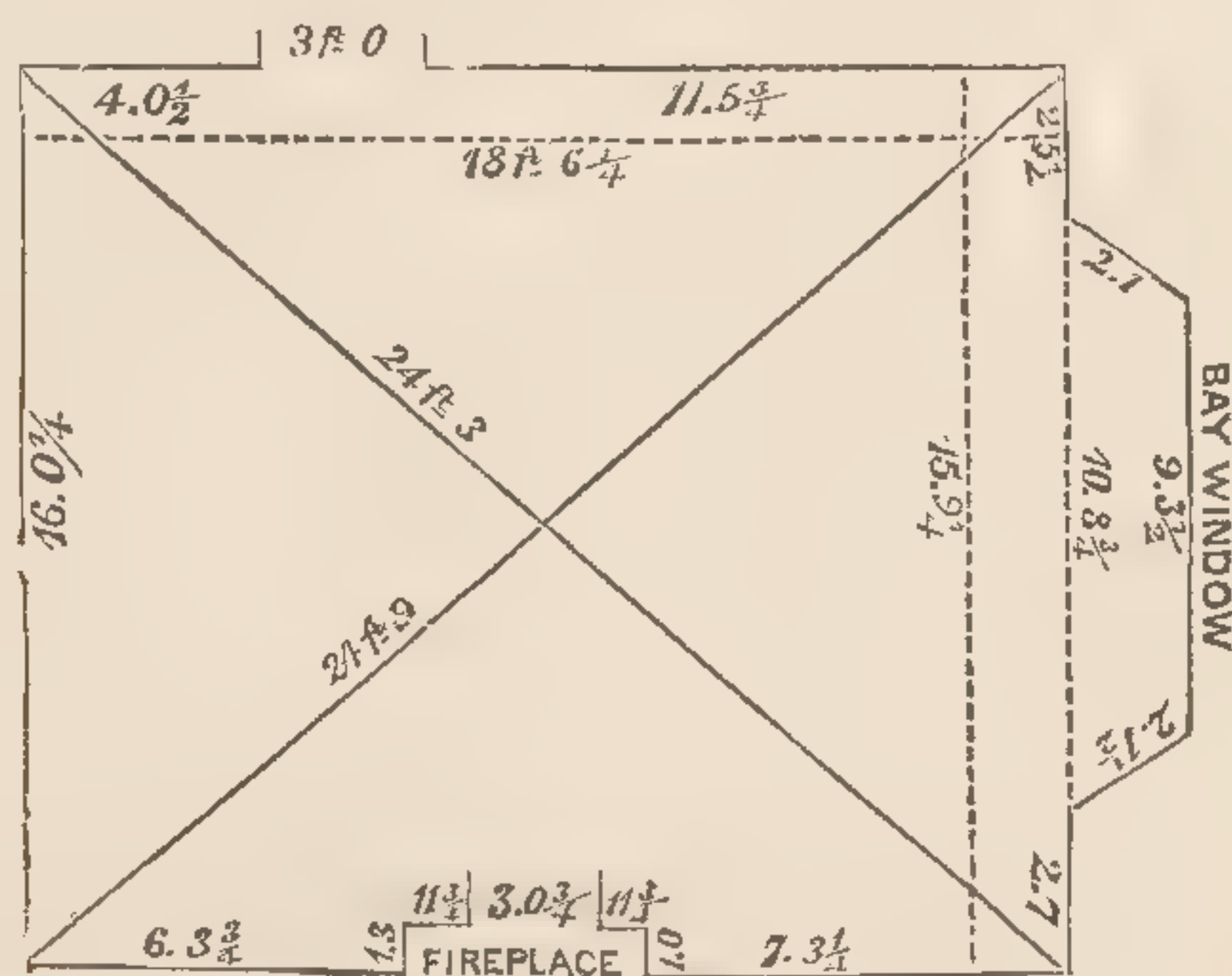
Whilst it must be admitted that central bordered Carpets are now most in vogue, yet many rooms are still entirely covered, a border being used, when desired. A border is certainly a very great improvement to the appearance of the Carpet, and though adding somewhat to its cost it well repays the extra outlay, especially for reception rooms. In fact, to many minds a border is as necessary to a Carpet as a frame is to a picture.

Borderings are, as a rule, 13½ and 18 inches wide; in some exceptional cases, they are made so narrow as 9 inches, and broad as 22½ and 27 inches.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. undertake to cut out and make up all kinds of Carpets; and, by arrangement, they will send experienced planners to take measure-

ments in the country. When a number of Carpets are required, it is well to take advantage of such a method; no charge is made for the man's services beyond, of course, his actual travelling expenses, and in these days of cheap third-class trains this expense will not be great. The Firm guarantees the correct fit of Carpets for which measurements are taken by their own men, and charge but 3d. per yard for cutting out sewing, making, and laying down. They also undertake the alteration and adaptation of Carpets, &c., on changes of residence or otherwise; it is the best plan, however, whenever practicable, to dispose of fitted Carpets, floorcloths, and other planned items, to the incoming tenant by valuation or other arrangement.

A diagram is appended, showing how a room should be measured; the dimensions should be accurately taken, though the plan need not be drawn to scale. Carpets of any kind can be made up from such a drawing:—





Drawing Room and Boudoir.

AMONG Carpets for these apartments, in which there is greater scope for the exercise of individual taste than in any other part of the residence, the first place must be accorded to those of Persian manufacture.

The pre-eminence of the ancient Babylonish weavers has never been lost; Persian Carpets are as highly esteemed to-day as when Babylon stood in all the glory of its broad walls, its hundred brazen gates, its hanging gardens and magnificent palaces—and in Persia are still produced the most beautiful specimens of floor coverings to be met with anywhere.

While the village system, as in India, tends to localise the manufacture, the Persian weavers are all more or less nomadic. As a result, the same designs are frequently to be met with in quite different places. While the Turkish weaver uses a perpendicular, the Persian employs a horizontal loom, and that of the most primitive description. It is simply a frame on which is stretched the warp, and, when in work, is only pegged into the bare earth. The woof consists of short stout threads, which are tied into the warp

with the fingers. When a row of the woof is thus complete, a sort of comb is inserted into the warp, and pressed tightly against the loose row, thus making it into a fine and evenly made cloth. Each Carpet is thus woven into a single piece; and to give a slight idea of the great labour required, we may state that the number of stitches in a yard width amounts to from 450 to 550, and sometimes more; and that the pile or thickness of the wool from which Carpets are woven is sometimes several inches. Considering that each of these stitches is made separately, it seems marvellous that, in the small space of a square yard, the number of stitches will amount to from 180,000 to 300,000. A single Carpet, for instance, measuring 4 yards by 5 yards, which only represents a moderate-sized room, will, therefore, contain from 3,500,000 to 6,000,000 stitches. It is difficult to conceive a greater amount of labour, skill, and patience than is thus necessary for producing Carpets of large dimensions. After the piece is woven, the pile is clipped until an even surface is obtained. The weaver sits with the reverse side of the Carpet towards him, so that the pattern must be entirely woven from memory; and this will account for the irregularity so often found in these goods.

The trade in real Persian Carpets was formerly very limited as they were made so long and narrow, for reasons already explained on page 3. This narrowness was perpetuated by the smallness of the rooms in which the weavers in many instances worked. Messrs.

MAPLE & Co. had very great difficulty in getting wide Carpets made, having to wait until a man could be found disengaged who had a room large enough to make the size required. They have now, however, overcome this difficulty to a very great extent, and have at the present time in stock and in process of manufacture Carpets measuring 22 feet wide, being the largest ever made.

These Carpets are now produced in the several districts of Persia, the most important of which are Khurdestan, Khorassan, Ferahan, and Serabend, each place producing Carpets of a distinctive character, both in texture and colouring. The finest, doubtless, are the Khorassan, of which many choice specimens are to be met with. The general character of the designs is floral, not however, with groups of natural flowers, drawn in relief, like the designs of so many of our English-made Carpets, but what may best be described as a conventionalised floral, and even by the novice, easily to be recognised as Persian. The borders are generally executed in a good bold style, and form by no means an unimportant feature of the Carpet.

Those called Ferahan are peculiarly suitable for the present style of furnishing and decorations, and are perhaps more largely sold than any other description of the Eastern Carpet for drawing rooms. The colourings are soft, rich and deep, the pile fine and close, producing a general effect, appreciation of which grows with experience. A very frequent arrangement of colouring is an intensely deep blue ground almost

entirely covered with small Persian patterns in red, yellow, white and green exquisitely harmonized.

Khorassan Carpets are rather highly coloured, but are remarkable for their harmoniously rich shades and exceptionally deep and fine borders; many of the Carpets at first sight appear to be almost all border, as it approaches quite to the centre of the Carpet, surrounding a medallion with most beautiful effect. The colouring of the ground is either bright blue or rich crimson; the pattern a very fine Persian work, in colours exquisitely blended. Such Carpets are considered somewhat superior to the Ferahan, but from their gorgeousness of colouring are not always so desirable.

Serabend Carpets are very similar in texture to Ferahan, and are always on a plain ground, either white, red, blue, or yellow, the design being a pine all over.

The finer makes of Indian Carpets are also much used for drawing rooms. Those called Masulipatam are made in the presidency of Madras, and take their name from the port at which they are shipped. They are the very finest specimens of Indian workmanship, the pile is soft and rather short, the colourings usually dull rich red, camel orange, with black, blue, white, or green in small proportions.

Ellore Carpets are similar in character to Masulipatam, and derive their name from the town of Ellore, on the banks of the Tammater river, in the Godavar district.

Another kind of Carpet which Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have for some years recommended, and to which much favour has been accorded, is the Lahore. These derive their name from the city of Lahor or Lahore, the capital of a division of the Punjab of that name, Lahore is an ancient walled city, situate on the banks of the river Ravi, and standing some 900 feet above the sea level. Among its manufactures are woollen and silk fabrics for clothing, embroideries, ivory, pottery, metal work, jewellery and Carpets. Its Carpets have long been famous. One of the travelling agents of the East India Company, writing so long ago as 1617, dating from Agra, reports a purchase of thirty Lahore Carpets, and in a subsequent letter, in 1619, speaks of the difficulty of obtaining really good ones. These Carpets, the sale of which has been so rapid that Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have had considerable difficulty in keeping their stock supplied, are a rather short fine pile ; the prevailing ground colours are camel or ivory, greenish or peacock blue, old gold, or red ; the pattern is usually either a pine, or trellis work.

Agra Carpets, similar in texture to Lahore, but with brighter colourings, are also suitable for the drawing room. They derive their name from the ancient city of Agra, famous for its public buildings and memorials of the Mogul dynasty. Among these are the fortress of Akbar, in which are contained the palace and audience hall of Shah Jehan, and the Moti Masjid or Pearl Mosque, so called from its extraordinary beauty. Another most remarkable edifice is the Taj Mahal, or

Mosque built by the Emperor Shah Jehan, for himself and his favourite wife, Arjimand Banoo. Tavernier mentions that 20,000 men were employed for 22 years in its erection. Agra was the capital of the Mogul sovereigns from 1526 till the latter part of the 17th century. It is held in great estimation by the Hindus as the scene of the incarnation of Vishnu.

Cashmere Carpets have recently been successfully re-introduced by Messrs. MAPLE. These are produced in Cashmere or Kashmir, an elevated and beautiful valley in the Himalayas, of which it has been said that there is no place or season that has not something to show of real beauty. The chief seat of the weaving industry is Srinagar, the capital city, a place of great antiquity, said to have been founded by Pravara Sén early in the sixth century. It is situate on the banks of the Jhelum. Cashmere shawls were formerly made here in large quantities, as they were also at Islamabad, about 20 per cent. of the population being engaged in the art. The favourite design of the shawls is supposed, and indeed generally admitted, to have been suggested by the windings of the Jhelum, as seen from Takht-i-Salaimán, or "Solomon's Throne." The demand for shawls having greatly declined, the Maharajah's attention was first given to the further development of the silk manufactures, and since to the weaving of Carpets, in which the skilful and practised shawl weavers are now engaged, utilising to a large extent the designs and colourings so well known in the famous and beautiful

shawls. Many of the Carpets, however, are reproductions of very choice specimens of antique Persian art. They are a fine close pile, made from soft finely spun wool, and are considered very durable. The prices come about the same as for the other higher grades of Indian Carpets.

Another kind of Indian Carpets are the Hyderabad. These are made in the territory of the Nizam, in the province of Hyderabad. They have a very short close pile; the prevailing colours being brick-red, blue, white, and orange. They are most durable in wear, and the general appearance is very effective. They are to be had in various sizes, and are suitable for either the dining-room or the drawing-room.

Yhordes or Ghiordes Carpets, a production of Asia Minor, are also used where a very bright, cheerful effect is desired. The prevailing colours are light blue, green, white, yellow, and red, vivid rather than subdued.

Antique Oriental Carpets are frequently laid on drawing-room floors, and produce an effect quite in accordance with modern taste. Messrs. MAPLE & Co.'s agents have for years been collecting ancient Persian Carpets for the purpose of copying the patterns and colourings in the present makes, and also as designs for home-manufactured Carpets, Cretonnes, and Curtain materials. These, when finished with, are sent to London, and Messrs. MAPLE & Co., now hold a considerable stock of them. Curiosities such as these ancient Carpets are now much sought after by

artists, connoisseurs, and by lovers of the antique, rare, and curious. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. do not offer or wish to sell them at "curiosity prices," since having answered their purpose, they are willing to dispose of them at a reasonable commercial profit. The peculiarities of these goods are more fully described under Daghestan, or old prayer Rugs.

Peculiarly appropriate for the drawing-room, though but very rarely met with, are the luxurious Velvet Carpets that come from the ancient city of Benares. The antiquity of this city is thus eloquently described by Mr. Sherring, in his "Sacred Cities of the Hindus." "Twenty-five centuries ago, at least, it was famous. When Babylon was struggling with Nineveh for supremacy; when Tyre was planting her colonies; when Athens was growing in strength; before Rome had become known, or Greece had contended with Persia, or Cyrus had added lustre to the Persian monarchy, or Nebuchadnezzar had captured Jerusalem . . . she had already risen to greatness, if not to glory." Benares is also interesting as being the resort of pilgrims from other parts of India, Thibet, Burmah, and also for the number of retired Hindus who reside there in order to wash away their sins in the sacred river Ganges. Commercially it is a wealthy and prosperous city; a large business is done in sugar, saltpetre, and indigo. Silks and shawls are also among its manufactures, and for many centuries it has held the first place in India for brass and copper ware. Its bazaars are well

stocked with choice and costly goods. The Benares Carpets are velvet, with very beautiful gold embroidery.

Silken Carpets are another rare description ; the manufacture formerly carried on in Persia has long been discontinued. A very elaborate silken Carpet was sent from Kashmir to the Great Exhibition by Maharajah Goolab Sing. It was made entirely of silk, with a pile nearly an inch thick, in every square foot of which it is said there were at least 10,000 ties or knots. A few years ago when the Maharajah received the Prince of Wales, the great Hall erected for the occasion, in which the Prince and his companions and suite were entertained was covered all over with a costly silken Carpet, the size and rich effect of which was a matter of wonderment to all the guests.

But sometimes a Carpet is dispensed with, and instead, Eastern or other Rugs are arranged in convenient positions, and this, when judiciously done, has quite a unique and most agreeable effect. When the flooring is composed of polished parqueterie, the Rugs are laid directly upon it, but if it be simply ordinary boards and needs covering, a plain felt in olive, peacock or other approved colour, forms an excellent basis for the display of the rugs.

For the convenience of enabling their customers to judge of the complete effect of wall decorations, floor coverings and furniture, Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have constructed on their new premises an extensive suite of apartments, completely fitted, decorated and furnished. Amongst these rooms will be found several examples

where the floors are covered with an arrangement of Eastern Rugs. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. solicit a visit of inspection to these rooms.

As almost every Oriental Rug differs in some respect from any other, it is not practicable to do more here than give a general idea as to the colourings, sizes and prices of a few leading kinds.

Kurd Rugs are usually about 5 to 6 feet long by 3 feet to 3 feet 6 inches wide, the colourings orange, brick red, sienna, and a little black, white, green or blue ; prices from 7s. 9d. upwards. They are also supplied in a larger size, about 9 to 10 feet long by 5 feet wide, from 27s. 6d. each.

Moorish Rugs, imported from Algiers, are much finer and softer in texture than the Kurd, while the colours are bright and cheerful, being usually red, green, blue, orange and white, skilfully arranged. Sizes vary from about 6 by 3 feet up to 8 by 5 feet ; prices from 18s. to 40s.

Koula Rugs range from about 6 feet 6 inches long by 3 feet 6 inches wide up to 8 feet to 9 feet by 4 feet 6 inches ; these are in bright warm colourings, as red, blue, green, with a little yellow or white ; prices from 12s. 9d., 18s. 6d., to 60s.

Yhordes Rugs are of a much finer texture, and the colourings are light and bright, usually a mixture of light blue, green, red, yellow, white, or black. They are made in a great variety of sizes, from about 20 inches square, 3 feet by 2 feet and upwards to 7 feet by 4 feet ; prices from 5s. 9d. to 60s.

Ferahan Rugs vary from about 6 feet 6 inches to 8 feet long, and from 3 feet 6 inches to 4 feet 6 inches wide ; the pile is fine and close ; the colourings rich deep blue or red, with usually a small all-over pattern with beautifully harmonized colourings ; prices range from 27s. 6d. to 120s. Also in Mats 3 feet by 2 feet, about 20s.

Mirzapore Rugs are usually in large sizes only, being about 7 to 8 feet long by 4 feet wide, and with cream or black ground, having a pattern in red, blue, orange, camel, or white ; the pile is very thick ; prices range from 40s. to 70s. Mats 12s. to 15s., size about 3 feet by 2 feet ; these are very scarce.

Turkoman (sometimes called Khiva) Rugs are a very short close pile, more like Utrecht velvet, and at first appearance seeming like a handsome table cloth. The colours are a rich deep coppery ground with a pattern in a beautiful tawny shade (*café au lait*). They are rather costly, in consequence of the danger in collecting them from among the wild tribes of Turkestan, and also on account of the great difficulty in obtaining perfect specimens. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have some exceptionally choice examples now in stock.

Ornamental Hookah Carpets and Rugs with silken pile are produced at Mooltan, Umritsir and Peshawur, but these very seldom find their way into the English markets.

Daghestan Rugs derive their name from Daghestan, a rocky and mountainous district on the slopes of the Caucasus in Asiatic Russia. Messrs. MAPLE & Co.

have a most interesting, and perhaps it would not be too much to say altogether unique collection of these ancient Rugs, many of which have probably been in use for decades, besides hundreds of specimens of modern manufacture. Years ago they were only brought into England in very small numbers and sold to connoisseurs and those who had a mania for anything rare and curious, at most exorbitant rates. Messrs. MAPLE & Co.'s prices for these goods are most moderate—in fact, far below what is asked and obtained by some other firms, and if the readers of these remarks will call when in Tottenham Court Road, they will have the opportunity of examining for themselves these interesting specimens of the Oriental handiwork of by-gone days, without the least fear of being importuned to purchase.

So great is the variety of design and colouring in these Rugs that space forbids anything like an adequate description ; more cannot be said here than that the sizes range from about 4 feet by 3 feet to 12 feet by 5 feet, and of some 20 feet by 7 feet 6 inches ; prices from 25s. to 100 guineas ; the colourings red, blue, green, camel, orange, &c., of course softened and mellowed by age. Where a visit to the warehouse is not convenient, Messrs. MAPLE & Co. are always most happy to send a large selection of Rugs on approval ; in writing for an assortment it is well to say, when practicable, about what sizes and kinds will be preferred, also to indicate a limit for price.

Several (perhaps not altogether disinterested)

attempts have been made to disparage the beauty and value of the ancient Rugs. To those persons therefore who may not have had opportunities of examining them, it may be as well to explain that while many have been in use for perhaps generations, they have not been eventually sold by their possessors because done with, but for quite different reasons. It must be borne in mind that the East is the land of pilgrimage, the Mohammedan resorting to such places as Mecca and Medina. When going on pilgrimage, the Orientals carry their Rugs or Carpets for use as a seat, a bed, or for devotions; if need be, to sell, or eventually to present as an offering to the priest, or as a gift to the shrine. That eminent authority on Eastern art, Sir George Birdwood, relates that as every year an embroidered veil was presented by the Athenian colonists to the "White Maiden," Athene, so also, every year, veils of black silk, Carpets and tapestries are sent by the heads of the different states of Islam, such as the Padishah of Turkey and the Khedive of Egypt, to spread on the Caaba at Mecca, on the Prophet's tomb at Medina, and in the Mosques of the Hedjaz; a former Guicowar of Baroda, although a Hindoo, had a covering made for the Prophet's tomb upon which he is said to have spent a million sterling. These votive offerings comprising numerous varieties of Carpets and Rugs become in many instances the perquisites of the priests, by whom they are disposed of to agents and collectors, and thus find their way into our English warehouses.

In connection with the employment of Rugs for

decorative floor coverings a striking effect may be produced by covering the floor entirely with a plain felt, say dark blue or terra cotta, and placing on it, instead of Oriental Rugs, Sheepskin Mats or Rugs, in olive, old gold, prune, or sultan; and if something quite *outré* be wished for, it may be obtained by a central covering of terra cotta, with a broad surround of peacock, or mustard with border of olive.

Coming back again to fabrics of English manufacture, the hand-made, Patent Super Royal, and Royal Axminster, Wilton Pile, Brussels and other Carpets mentioned under the Dining Room Section, are also appropriate for the Drawing Room; while, if the rooms are quite small and a very inexpensive Carpet is required, a Tapestry Brussels may be used; they are sold by the yard, at from 2s. to 2s. 9d.; and upon the special list of made-up Carpets referred to on page 30, there will be found a variety of useful sizes.

It remains to speak now of the Woodstock Carpet. This is similar in texture to the Kidderminster, but is woven throughout in one piece, and has a wide fringed border all round. The designs are conventional or Early English; the colourings peacock, deep blue, deep red, or other art shades. Woodstock Carpets are made in two qualities, termed two-ply and three-ply, the three-ply being an extra thickness. They are made in the following sizes and prices:—

		ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.
		8.0	by 7.6	9.0	by 7.6	9.0	by 9.0	10.6	by 9.0
2-Ply	...	£1	0 0	£1	2 6	£1	7 0	£1	11 6
3-Ply	...		...		...	2	0 6	2	7 3

		ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.
		10.6 by 10.6		12.0 by 9.0		12.0 by 10.6		12.0 by 12.0	
2-Ply	...	£1	16 9	£1	16 0	£2	2 0	£2	8 0
3-Ply	...	2	15 3	2	14 0	3	3 0	3	12 0
		13.6 by 10.6		13.6 by 12.0		15.0 by 12.0			
2-Ply	...	£2	7 3	£2	14 0	£3	0 0		
3-Ply	...	3	11 0	4	1 0	4	10 0		

Rugs to match, 6 by 3 ft., 2-Ply 6/9, 3-Ply 9/-.

These Carpets are deservedly popular, and an immense number of them has been sold. They well supply the want so often expressed for something really tasteful, artistic and durable, yet quite inexpensive. Many imitations of these goods, under different names, some of them, of very inferior character, have been offered to the public, but the original Woodstock Carpets were introduced by Messrs. MAPLE & Co., and can only be obtained from them.

Other seamless Carpets, known as the Pembroke, are also suitable for smaller drawing rooms, and come at a very moderate price. They are of two kinds, the loop pile similar to Tapestry Brussels, and the cut or velvet pile. They are made in a great variety of designs in well arranged art colourings ; the centre is of an all-over pattern, and there is an appropriate border. They are kept in stock of the following sizes :—

THE LOOP PILE.

ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.
7 10 by 5 3	9 9 by 6 7	10 6 by 9 0	11 1 by 8 10				
£0 19 0.	£1 9 6.	£1 19 0.	£2 10 6.				

ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.
12 0 by 9 0	12 9 by 9 9	13 6 by 10 0	14 0 by 11 0				
£2 5 6.	£2 16 0.	£2 17 0.	£3 7 0				
	ft. in.	ft. in.					
	15 0 by 12 0						
	£3 17 0						

THE VELVET OR CUT PILE.

ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.
7 10 by 5 5	9 9 by 6 9	10 3 by 7 6	11 1 by 8 4				
£1 5 9.	£2 2 0.	£2 11 0.	£3 6 0.				
	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.			
	12 9 by 9 9	14 4 by 10 9					
	£4 6 0.	£5 3 0.					

It may be added that India Matting, either plain or white, with art colours, or of a fancy pattern, forms a very nice, and also an inexpensive surround to a Drawing Room Carpet. It costs only 1s. to 2s. 6d. per yard 36 inches wide.





Morning Room

A SELECTION of the most suitable floor covering for this apartment is ruled very much by the style, character, and extent of the residence, as well as the purposes for which the room is intended to be used. In houses of modest pretensions, where breakfast is taken in this apartment, a stout Brussels, or Tapestry Carpet, or a pretty Linoleum is generally used, and considered most appropriate. In other cases where the chamber partakes more of the character of a reception room, a great variety of treatment is admissible. A Brussels, Wilton, or Eastern Carpet may be used, or the arrangement of Rugs on a basis of felt as suggested for the Drawing Room is very frequently adopted. In the suite of apartments referred to on page 47 is the example of a Morning Room completely fitted in Japanese style. The walls are hung with embroidered panels, and the floor covered with red Chinese or Indian matting upon which Daghestan Rugs are disposed, producing a very pleasing effect. This apartment has been much admired, as being something out of the common style, and it is well worth inspecting. Another suitable covering is a basis of felt or matting,

with an arrangement of Dhurries or Cotton Carpets. The Dhurries are woven in stripes, with colourings blue, white, red and green. They are produced at Agra, Bareilly, Patna, and elsewhere. The sizes range from 5 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches at 2s. 3d. each, up to about 10 by 8 feet: 55s. each. Dhurries are also used for the panels of screens, portières, curtains, and wall hangings. The white, green and blue hangings of the court of King Ahasuerus may possibly have been specimens of these fabrics.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have recently brought forward quite a new style of Carpet, very suitable for the Morning Room of a good middle class residence. It is made upon the same principle as a Tapestry Brussels, but has an exceptionally close firm pile, and is likely to wear well. It is known as the Flemish Carpet, is 27 inches wide, and costs 3s. 6d. per yard. At present it is only produced in a limited number of patterns.

The Woodstock and Pembroke Carpets are frequently used for small Morning Rooms.





Library and Study.

IF first cost be not a consideration there is no Carpet better for these rooms than a Turkey, Nomad, or Mirzapore, set in parqueterie. If the floor be parqueterie all over, an arrangement of Oriental Rugs, similar to that suggested for the Drawing Room is appropriate. If the flooring needs merely a covering of some kind, a Linoleum, and the Rugs arranged upon it can well be used. This plan, which Messrs. MAPLE & Co. advised some years ago, has largely grown in the public estimation. It may be stated here that Linoleum is made either in plain art colourings such as peacock, olive and Indian red ; light or dark brown ; also with a pattern printed on it. There has moreover lately been introduced, as specially suitable for the display of Oriental Rugs, what is termed a "granite." This has dark neutral colourings, with a pattern not printed on, but worked into the material, so that it cannot possibly wear off. The extraordinary success of the original, or Staines Linoleum, made on Mr. F. Walton's patent, and the favour it has met with has led to a host of imitations, which, though offered

at a lower price, are not to be compared with the Staines, either for appearance or durability. Linoleums termed "best," are now advertised at very low prices. "Best" however necessarily may not mean the best kind, but the best of a particular manufacture. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. sell the very best Staines make, plain art colours at 2s. 7d.; plain browns, 2s. 7d.; printed at 3s.; and granite at 3s. per square yard. They have also other qualities at 1s. 6d., 1s. 11d. and 2s. 3d., still "the best is the best." All qualities can be supplied, either three feet or six feet wide.

What is known as "Kalmuc," a thick, self-coloured material made in plain Indian red, sienna, olive, peacock, and like colourings, is also used for Library or Study floors, either as a covering by itself, or as a basis for Rugs. This fabric is 36 inches wide, and 1s. 9d. to 2s. 8d. per yard. Another appropriate floor covering is the Ispahan Carpet, which is not unlike a Brussels in appearance, except that it has no pattern on it. This is 27 inches wide, 3s. per yard, and is really very durable.

Axminster, Wilton, and Brussels Carpets, of which mention has already been made, are, of course, appropriate for these rooms; and Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have some stout, heavy-made Brussels Carpets, in oak, crimson and oak, and other useful colours, as well as Persian patterns, which they offer at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 6d. per yard, that are peculiarly adapted for use in either Library or Study, where there is hard wear, and for which an expensive Carpet is not desired.

For a small Study, a Sournack, or Shumack Carpet, of Eastern manufacture, without a pile, and in dull, dark colourings, is often used. These Carpets measure about 9 feet by 7 feet, price from £4. 5s. They are very durable, but their effect is rather sombre. The large Kurd Rugs, measuring about 9 to 10 feet long, by about 5 feet wide, at from 27s. 6d. each, are also suitable for small studies, are well-looking and useful for a low price.





Billiard and Smoking Rooms.

CARPETS are not generally considered desirable for either of these rooms. If the flooring be of ordinary boards, these can be stained and polished at a small cost, which can always be ascertained by an inquiry of Messrs. MAPLE & Co.; or a covering of thin parqueterie can be laid over the existing floor. The actual floor may be composed of solid oak parqueterie. The cost of thin parqueterie has already been mentioned. The solid parqueterie ranges from 10½d. per foot in oak, and 1s. 4d. per foot in oak and walnut, for the material only. But a complete estimate, including laying, polishing and other charges, with designs, will be prepared and forwarded free, if a plan of the space and full particulars be sent to Messrs. MAPLE & Co.

In the range of new show-rooms before referred to is a model Billiard Room, the flooring of which is composed of solid oak parqueterie.

A new kind of parqueterie has just been introduced by MAPLE & Co., over which they have exclusive right. This is termed "Hydrofuges," and it is both damp and fire proof. From its peculiar construction

it can, if necessary, be laid direct upon the soil, and it is thus eminently suitable for use in residences where the Billiard or Smoking Rooms are in the basement. It has been adopted by the Belgian and Dutch Boards of Works, and at the present time great quantities are being used for the public schools and official buildings. In Brussels, the Palais de Justice has recently been laid with it, besides the Railway Station and other large establishments. The cost is but little more than that of ordinary thick parqueterie. In the erection of new buildings with basement floors an actual saving on the cost of ordinary deal flooring can be effected by using the new parqueterie, besides which it is much more durable.

It may be stated here that it is always better to have parqueterie put down by workmen who have constant practice in the art. If not properly laid (and only experienced artizans know how to do this work), the result is often very unsatisfactory.

Parqueterie has grown largely in favour since the adoption of Central Carpets, and is certainly to be commended on sanitary as well as other grounds. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have for some years past had the thick parqueterie laid in their show rooms, where there is incessant traffic, and the result has been most satisfactory as regards cleanliness, economy and appearance.

If, however, it is proposed to cover ordinary floors in these rooms, there is nothing better for the purpose than Linoleum, upon which if desired, a few Rugs may

be arranged. If, as in some old houses, the floors are of cement or concrete, a Manilla, Napier, or Cocoa Matting would be both suitable and durable. The widths and prices of these materials will be found on a subsequent page.

A very handsome, and certainly most durable surround for the billiard-table may be made of long Persian or other Eastern Rugs, and Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have also a fabric termed "Velvet Carpet," which, from its wear-resisting capabilities, as well as its softness to the tread, is peculiarly adapted for this purpose. It is a Pile Carpet, and has usually a brown mottled centre, with deep red border; but it can also be supplied with grey, yellow, camel, or other coloured centre and with a blue border. It is made 27 and 36 inches wide, the latter width is generally used, and the price of it is 7s. 3d. per yard. The narrower Carpet is 5s. per yard. A bordered Wilton or Brussels Carpet can also be used; so too can Linoleum, with plain centre and artistic border. The price of this, 36 inches wide, is from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per yard. Linoleum Mats are likewise frequently employed, a complete set for a full-sized table, 12 feet by 6 feet, costing 63s., extra thick; or the ordinary 3 feet wide, mitred at each corner, about 50s.





The Hall.

THE best method of treating the Hall depends very much upon its character, size and shape, the nature and condition of the floor, and the traffic to which it has to be subjected. Where, as in large mansions, particularly in the country, the Hall partakes of the character of an outer reception room, it admits of considerable variety in treatment. Mosaic flooring is often used. This is made by chips of marble, or small cubes formed of ground flint, being firmly embedded in concrete, into which a coloured heraldic design, monogram or motto can be worked, if desired. The cost is from 15s. per square yard. An example of this flooring can be seen in the vestibule of the suite of completely-furnished apartments in Messrs. MAPLE & Co.'s new show rooms.

Parqueterie is exceedingly well adapted for a Hall, especially if it be large and well proportioned. An ordinary deal floor will look nice if stained and polished, with either a central Carpet, or Eastern Rugs, cast upon it. If the flooring be very old and

rough, a good plan is to cover it with Kalmuc, Ispahan Carpet, or Felt, and to arrange Rugs thereon. If it be rectangular in shape, a Linoleum, either plain, with a border, or covered with one of the pretty new printed designs, will serve and will wear exceedingly well ; but if the shape be irregular, and there are many angles, then a " floor cloth " or oil cloth is better, because it does not cut so much to waste. The reason for this is that the Staines make and best quality Linoleum is only produced 3 and 6 feet wide, so that, for instance, to cover a space 7 feet wide would necessitate using one full width of 6 feet and a second width of 3 feet, 2 feet of which, if not utilised elsewhere, would be wasted. Floor cloths being kept in stock by Messrs. MAPLE & Co. as many as 24 feet wide, can be cut any dimension within that measurement without waste. A good well-seasoned cloth can be supplied at 2s. 4½d. per square yard, but the extra stout cloths at 2s. 9d. and 3s. are specially commended.

Floor cloth originated in the custom of painting boarded floors in diamonds or squares of black and white, red, or other colours, a troublesome and tedious process. An ingenious workman, possibly not liking his task, and noticing the inconveniences arising from the process, conceived the idea of painting the patterns upon a strong coarse canvas, using his own workshop instead of his patron's house, and then laying the painted cloth upon the floor. From this has developed the manufacture of floorcloths, now prosecuted on a very large scale in Scotland, and in the south-

eastern districts of London. Of late years there have been very great improvements in the style of the designs and finish of the cloth; the surface has been made much smoother, and therefore less likely to lose its substance or beauty. New, or unseasoned floor-cloths, *i.e.*, cloths that have not had sufficient time to get thoroughly dry and hard, will soon wear shabby.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have always an immense variety of well-seasoned, air-dried Cloths of this description in stock, amongst which are many new designs. In fact, theirs is one of the very few warehouses where what are termed "Bodies" of floorcloth can be seen in stock, and only when they select from such collections can customers be absolutely sure of getting thoroughly matured Cloths. The great majority of retailers sell from pattern books, ordering the quantities they require from the makers, having to pay an extra price for "cut lengths," as well as being entirely dependent upon the makers for the age and condition of the Cloths. The customer in such cases has not only to pay a higher price, but has no opportunity of seeing the actual fabric before deciding. The Linoleum and Floorcloth sections of Messrs. MAPLE & Co.'s warehouse are probably the largest and most important of their kind in the world.

When the Hall has a stone or cement floor, and it is at all uneven, or damp, the most suitable covering will be matting, of which there are several kinds.

Cocoa Matting is specially suitable for damp floors.

It is kept in stock by Messrs. MAPLE & Co. in the following widths and qualities:—

	18	22½	27	36	45	54	72 inches wide.
Medium . . .	8	10	1/	1/4	1/8	2/-	— per yard.
Best Medium	10	1/0½	1/3	1/8	2/1	2/6	3/6 „
Best . . .	1/-	1/3	1/6	2/-	2/6	3/-	4/2 „
Red do. . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	„
Super Bord'd	15	18½	1/10½	2/6	3/1½	3/9	5/2 „

Lower-priced goods can be obtained, but they are not recommended. This Matting can also be supplied in olive, peacock, and several other art shades.

Napier Mattings are softer to the tread, and without the harshness of the Cocoa; they are made of hemp, twisted somewhat after the same manner as twine; in fact, they are sometimes described as “String Matting.” They are to be had either plain, light brown, or in fancy colourings; prices and widths are as follows:—

	18 inches.	27 inches.	36 inches wide.
Plain . . .	1/6½	2/3	3/1
Fancy . . .	1/7½	2/4½	3/3
Bordered . . .	1/9	2/7½	3/6

Manilla Mattings are thinner than either Cocoa or Napier, and have a bright clean surface and open texture; the width and prices of these are:—

	18 inches.	27 inches.	36 inches wide.
Manilla . . .	11d.	14½d.	22d.
Jacquard, ditto	16½	20½	2/8

There are also many Mattings made of Jute sold under various names and at very low prices, but they can be scarcely advocated either for cleanliness or for

durability ; in fact, there is little beyond their low price to recommend them.

Passages and Corridors are usually treated in accordance with the method adopted for the entrance hall. Bordered Floorcloths are made specially for passages ; the widths are 18, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$, 27, 36, 45, and 54 inches, the prices being the same per square yard as the body-cloths they match.





Stairs and Landings.

For the principal stairs, a Turkey, Indian or Persian Carpet is decidedly preferable, not only on account of its rich and handsome effect, and luxurious softness to the tread, but for its great durability. These Carpets usually run from about 2 feet 4 inches to 3 feet 4 inches wide; but Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have facilities, through their agents in the East, for making them in any width. They have now some very fine specimens of Turkey Stair Carpets in stock, as well as some choice examples of Persian make. In writing for quotations, it is well to mention not only the width but also the number of yards required for each flight of stairs and for landings, as Oriental Stair Carpets are not made in pieces of 50 yards like English goods.

The hand-made real Axminster, and the Patent Axminster Carpets described in the dining room section, are also made for stairs. So, too, is the Super-Royal Axminster, which forms a very beautiful and durable covering, and is made in some very artistic designs. This Carpet is kept in stock in two widths only; 27 inch 9s. 9d., and 36 inch 14s. 6d. per yard

The "Hand-made" and Patent Axminsters are only produced specially to order.

Wilton Pile Carpets are also very beautiful and well adapted for principal stairs; they are made $22\frac{1}{2}$, 27, and 36 inches wide; price 5s. 6d., 6s. 6d. and 9s. 9d. per yard respectively.

The Velvet Carpet which has been previously suggested as a suitable surround for a billiard table is also largely used for stairs, especially where there is a great deal of traffic; in fact, the best proof of its capacity to resist hard wear is its use at such institutions as the Royal Academy, the theatres, hotels, &c.; this, too, is made $22\frac{1}{2}$, 27 and 36 inches wide at 4s. 6d., 5s. and 7s. 3d. per yard.

Brussels Carpets are used for stair covering more extensively than any others; they range from 2s. $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per yard to 3s. 9d. $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 2s. 11d. to 3s. 11d. 27 inches, and 5s. 6d. to 6s. 3d. 36 inches wide.

Tapestry Carpets are made as narrow as 18 inches, price from 1s. 9d.; $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 2s. to 2s. 6d.; 27 inches, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. per yard. Body Carpets of all materials for landings can be supplied to match the centre of that used for the stairs, and at the same price as that quoted for the 27-inch width.

A very excellent Stair Carpet is that known as the "Extra" Twill; this is made of very fine wool, and has usually a black and white or steel centre, with scarlet or blue border; it is made $22\frac{1}{2}$, 27 and 36 inches wide; prices 3s. 3d., 3s., 11d. and 4s. 11d. per yard.

Another most durable Carpet, very soft to the tread, and much used in old country mansions, is the Venetian Twill ; this has usually a crimson, oak, or green centre, with a self or contrasting border ; it is to be had $22\frac{1}{2}$, 27 and 36 inches wide, at 2s. 6d., 3s. 2d., 3s. 11d. per yard.

The Albert Twill Carpets are also good wearing and of soft texture ; they are made in a greater variety of colourings than either of the preceding kinds, and come at a lower rate. Some very pretty art colourings are now produced in this make ; the widths are 18, $22\frac{1}{2}$ and 27 inches, prices 2s., 2s. 6d., 2s. 11d. per yard.

What are termed Worcester Carpets, the face of which is made of horsehair, are very durable, and consequently are frequently used for covering spaces exposed to hard wear. They are made $22\frac{1}{2}$, 27 and 36 inches wide ; prices, 3s., 3s. 4d., 4s. 8d. respectively. While their wear-resisting capabilities cannot be disputed, yet, from their tendency to so quickly look shabby, they are not very much in favour.

The three-ply Kidderminster Carpets are now made in widths adapted for stairs ; these are very thick, soft and durable. The ornamentation is Early English, the colourings terra cotta, peacock, olive, bronze, and other art shades. These goods can be had $22\frac{1}{2}$, 27 or 36 inches wide ; prices, 3s. 6d., 3s. 11d., 4s. 6d. per yard.

The Ispahan Carpets and Kalmucs already mentioned, are also used for stair coverings.

All wool Dutch Stair Carpet is supplied at a very

reasonable price, and at the same time it is exceedingly durable. It has usually a mottled ground with bars or stripes of red, green, blue or oak ; or a plain oak, crimson or green centre with border. It is kept in stock, 18, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$, 27 and 36 inches wide ; prices from 1s., 1s. 3d., 1s. 6d., 2s. per yard.

Bordered Linoleum or floor-cloth also makes an excellent covering for secondary stairs. Care should be taken in purchasing to state that the material is required for stairs, as special cloths, very pliant, are made for the purpose ; an ordinary cloth, quite suitable for a passage, would crack at the nose of every step. As this is where every stair covering is most severely tried, it is economical to have sufficient laid to allow of shifting the position, and thus equalising the wear. About half a yard turned in is usually enough. It is desirable as saving the wear to put old Carpets down under the new, to have under felt, or use stair pads ; also to shift the Carpet three or four times during the first year. The pads for 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Stair Carpets are only 4s. 6d. ; for 27 in., 5s. 6d. ; for 36 in., 8s. per dozen.





Picture Gallery, &c.

IN most large country mansions will be found a picture gallery, spacious corridors, landings, alcoves, &c., needing special treatment according to their position and the general character of their surroundings. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. will at all times be happy on receipt of particulars, to advise on the subject, and submit patterns with sketch or estimate.





Bed Rooms.

THE system of having a central Carpet, with margin of stained and polished boards, or a surround of parqueterie, linoleum, felt or China matting has been largely adopted for bedrooms, and wisely so.

For best bedrooms, the finer makes of Eastern Carpets, Axminster, Wilton Pile, Brussels, Tapestry Brussels, Woodstock, and Kidderminster Carpets, are all suitable. In olden days, when black oak, mahogany and walnut furniture, with massive wooden four-post or Arabian bedsteads and sombre hangings were almost exclusively in vogue, it was considered nearly indispensable that a Bedroom Carpet should be of light colouring or at least have a light ground, so as to relieve the effect of the dark furniture ; in fact, in those days it was thought necessary that a Carpet should be light to be cheerful. Now, however, that such woods as pine, polished, enamelled, or decorated ash, light oak, bass, yew, or satin wood, with black and brass, or brass bedsteads, and hangings of pretty light chintz, cretonne or dimity are so largely used, medium or dark ground well-covered Carpets are more frequently sold than light ones.

A dark ground Carpet need not necessarily be sombre ; indeed some of the most effective Carpets that are laid have a black ground, almost entirely covered with a small design in shades of olive, relieved with a little red, white or blue ; or a sage or peacock ground, with a small conventional pattern in a darker shade of the same colour, with a little mixture of some contrasting hue such as orange. There is perhaps a slight tendency just now to lighter, brighter colours ; but the low tones are likely to remain in favour. One of the bed-rooms in the suite of apartments before referred to (page 47) is furnished in light carved oak with brass twin bedsteads ; the walls hung with cretonne, and on the floor is laid a bordered Brussels Carpet with pale olive ground, the pattern in shaded olive and golden brown, which is very effective. It forms an excellent example of a medium coloured Carpet, neither light nor dark. Another bed-room is fitted up with inlaid satinwood furniture, and on the floor is a specimen of plain olive centre bordered Wilton Pile Carpet, which has been much admired.

Best Brussels Carpets range from 3s. 0d. to 3s. 11d., but Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have useful qualities for bedroom wear at 2s. 6½d., 2s. 11d. and 3s. 3d. Tapestry Brussels they supply at from 1s. 11½d. to 2s. 4½d., and the very best at 2s. 6d. Tapestry Brussels Carpets are often advertised at so low a price as 1s. 0½d. per yard, but the wool of which the face is composed is so poor in quality as well as so meagre in quantity, that such Carpets look shabby after even a few weeks' wear.

These very low priced goods are probably only produced by manufacturers to keep their machinery going in slack times, or to reduce the average cost per yard on the aggregate out-put of the factory. As a rule they are retailed by dealers of a class who scarcely expect (or even wish) to see a customer a second time; while the manufacturers themselves would be amused were any one seriously to ask them if the fabrics would wear well.

Three-ply Kidderminster Carpets are very thick and warm to the tread. They are invariably of art colourings, as terra cotta, dull red, olive, peacock, &c., and the design is usually worked in a darker shade of the same colour as the ground; the price is 4s. 6d. per yard, 36 inches wide instead of 27 inches as in Brussels and Tapestry Carpets, and they have borderings with fringed edges made to match. These borders are 18 inches wide, price from 2s. 6d. per yard.

Kidderminster Carpets of ordinary substance range from 1s. 9d., 2s. 4½d., 2s. 9d., to 2s. 11d. per yard. They are frequently made on white or buff ground with small patterns in chintz colourings, and are thus suitable for rooms of limited size, especially where a light effect is desired. They are also very useful in chambers where there is much wear and a good deal of sunlight. Dark colourings are, however, very much in vogue, and Messrs. MAPLE & Co. are now offering some really excellent designs in very deep blue, sage, and chesnut brown; these are but 2s. 11d. per yard, and this is about the quality that is recom-

mended. Many low priced Kidderminster Carpets are what is termed "Union," that is, largely composed of cotton. They very quickly soil, and look shabby.

The plain felts, Kalmucs and Ispahan Carpets are also used for bed-rooms, either as a covering in themselves, or with an arrangement of Rugs.

China, or as it is commonly termed India Matting, forms an excellent material for covering bed-room floors, especially in summer. This, with an arrangement of Sheepskin Rugs, Yhordes Mats, Indian or Persian Rugs has a cool and agreeable effect, and its use is decidedly growing in public estimation, though as yet its merits have never been adequately appreciated. Their recent further extension of premises has enabled Messrs. MAPLE & Co. to devote more space to the display of these Mattings, and they are now able to offer a far larger variety for choice than can be met with elsewhere; while, being direct importers, the merchant's profit is saved, so that customers get also an advantage in price.

India mattings can be had either plain creamy white, olive, red, red and white check, or of fancy patterns. They are usually kept in stock by Messrs. MAPLE & Co. in the following widths and prices :—

	27	36	45	54 inches wide
Plain White . . .	—/10	1/2½	—	—
Medium do. . . .	1/5½	1/7	2/—	2/4
Best White Seamless .	1/9	1/9½	2/6	2/9
Plain Red „ . . .	2/6	2/9	—	—
„ Olive	—	—	—	—
Red Check	1/2	1/3	2/1	2/4

	27	36	45	54 inches wide
Fancy, from . . .	—	1/—	—	—
Best Seamless . . .	—	1/9½	—	—
Extra „ . . .	—	2/6	—	—

A reduction is made when a piece of 40 yards is taken.

Bordered squares, with seamless centre, of this Matting are kept in stock in three sizes,

7 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft.	9 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft.	12 ft. by 9 ft.
6/9	9/6	21/— each.

Also in mats for the front of washstands; these are made in two sizes, about 54 by 27 inches from 18d. each, and about 66 by 36 inches from 21d. each. Matting can, of course, be bought by the yard, and made into mats of any size. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. sell a leather for binding the edges, which, exclusive of sewing on, costs 2d. per yard.

India Matting is frequently used to form a dado, either for entrance halls, morning rooms, or smaller drawing-rooms. When properly fixed with wooden beadings, which can be had at from 3d. to 6d. per foot it has a very nice effect, with the advantage of being clean, durable, and inexpensive. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. supply the beadings, as well as undertake the fixing.

The old make of Venetian Twill Carpets for bed-rooms is still sold, though now only in limited quantities; it is made in oak, crimson and green, the price 3s. 11d. per yard 36 inches wide, and is exceedingly durable.

For secondary or upper bed-rooms a printed felt Carpet is often used. This material is 50 inches

wide, and can be supplied at from 2s. 4½d. to 3s. 1d. per yard. Those made by the Patent Victoria Felt Co. costing 3s. 1d. are exceedingly good, and now to be had in some really pretty designs. Mottled Tapestry, a Carpet with a pattern of all colours woven in at random from the surplus wools of best Brussels Carpets, is also very useful for these rooms; this fabric is 27 inches wide, of a good quality, 1s. 9d. per yard, and will wear well.

Dutch Carpets, though perhaps not very pretty, but excellent for hard wear, are made either in plain crimson, oak or green, and on a mottled ground, with bars or stripes of colours; the fabric is 36 inches wide; prices range from 1s. 8d. upwards, the very best being 2s. 7d. per yard 36 inches wide.

Hempen Dutch Carpets are used for servants' rooms; they are 36 inches wide, price from 8d. to 1s. per yard; so too are the Worsted Bedside Rugs, 6 feet long, 2 feet wide, 3s. 9d. each.





Dressing and Bath Rooms.

ARE usually covered with the same fabrics as the bed-rooms with which they are connected. When the bath has to be taken in the dressing-room, a Bath-cloth should be used; this may be of Linoleum, the sizes and prices of which are as follows :—

Inches.		Inches.
36 × 24 . . .	2/6	46 × 46 . . .
46 × 27 . . .	3/9	54 × 54 . . .
54 × 36 . . .	5/8	72 × 72 . . .
72 × 28 . . .	5/11	15/-

or of plain felt, 48 × 48 inches, 4s. 9d. each; also printed in tile pattern on cream ground, 50 × 50 inches, 4s. 4d.; 63 × 50 inches, 5s. 6d. each.

The “Caterpillar” bath cloth, a novelty introduced by Messrs. MAPLE & Co. about three years ago, has been a great success. It is made of a soft grey hairy material, with a pile similar to that on the back of the insect from which it takes its name. The nature of this pile is such that the moisture does not become absorbed, and the cloth saturated, but the water can be shaken off. These cloths measure about 54 × 54

inches, and as the price is only 7s. 6d. each, are really cheap, as well as nice.

Another very good bath-cloth is made of white blanketing bound with blue or red; these are about 54 inches square, 10s. 9d. each, and if with large monogram or crest, nicely worked, 15s. 9d. each.

For the bath-room itself and lavatories, there are no better coverings than Linoleum, and that which is printed is better for the purpose than plain. The new tile patterns are very appropriate. A cork pad or standing mat is a great addition to the comfort of the bath. These measure about 24 X 18 inches, and are nearly an inch thick, price 3s. 9d. ; a smaller size can be had at 3s.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. have on view a fitted bath and dressing-room combined, the floor of which is covered with cork, arranged in a pattern similar to parqueterie, with an arrangement of Eastern Rugs. This is well worth the inspection of any one who intends fitting up a bathroom.





Nurseries and School-Room.

THERE is often not a little perplexity as to what Carpeting is best for these rooms. Something durable must be had, as well as something that will not show every soil, and at the same time the cost of it must be moderate. For the day nursery and school-room there is perhaps no better covering than either printed Linoleum, or a central Carpet of stout heavy Brussels, such as Messrs. MAPLE & Co. usually have on sale at about 2s. 11d. and 3s. 3d. per yard. A Mottled Tapestry is likewise frequently sold for this purpose at 1s. 9d. per yard. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. are frequently offering old pattern Brussels Carpets at a very considerable reduction in price ; and if purchasers do not object to a design or colouring that is not new, and are content to leave the choice to the firm, a very best quality Carpet can be sometimes had for the usual cost of a common one. It may be stated here that all selections of this kind are made by thoroughly competent and experienced persons, on whose taste and judgment the firm can rely, and it would, of course, be inimical to their own interest, when honoured with the confidence of a customer, to

send out articles which are not of good value, or are unsuitable for their purpose.

For night nurseries or children's bed-rooms, either a woollen Dutch, a mottled Tapestry, or a felt Carpet would be appropriate. One advantage of the woollen Dutch is that besides wearing clean, it is reversible.





Domestic Offices.

FOR the Housekeeper's Room, a central Carpet is decidedly preferable ; those on the special list already referred to, say in Class II. or IV., or a Pembroke Carpet, would be considered suitable ; or a Brussels of the qualities Messrs. MAPLE & Co. offer at 2s. 11d. to 3s. 3d. per yard.

For the Butler's pantry, maid's linen-room, and similar domestic offices, a Linoleum or Floor-cloth is generally used.

For the Kitchen, as in the case of the Hall, the most suitable covering depends upon the nature and condition of the floor. If that be of stone or concrete, a cocoa matting is certainly the best material ; and this will wear very much longer if occasionally sprinkled with water. If the floor is boarded, then a good well-seasoned floor-cloth should be used. Floor-cloth is preferable to Linoleum, as it does not so readily show grease spots or similar marks.

For the hearth, a mottled or beam rug is generally sold ; these range from 3s. 9d. to 7s. 9d. each. A

Lancastrian Rug, made of cloth cuttings firmly sewn on to a rope back, is, however, sometimes preferred; these come at 4s. 4d. and 6s. 6d. each. A printed jute rug is sometimes put forward as suitable, but they are most disappointing and unsatisfactory in use, the colours quickly fading with the heat of the fire.





Mats.

THOSE for doorways that lead to the exterior of the house are usually made of cocoa-fibre, either plain, or with border, and not unfrequently with a crest, monogram, or motto, such as "Salve," worked in the centre. A very good plan is to have a sunk-well made in the flooring, and the mat placed in it, so as to allow of the door opening over it. In such cases the mats are made of a size and thickness to suit the well; motto and crest mats are, of course, made to order; so also are those to fit peculiarly shaped spaces; the approximate price can always be learned on application to Messrs. MAPLE & Co. The sizes of Cocoa-mats are known in the trade by numbers ranging from 1 to 9; the actual measurements, with prices of the various qualities are as follows:—

BEST DIAMOND,				EXTRA DIAMOND,			
without Border.				without Border.			
			s. d.				s. d.
2	27 × 16	...	2 0	2	27 × 16	...	2 9
3	30 × 18	...	2 6½	3	30 × 18	...	3 4
4	33 × 20	...	3 2	4	33 × 20	...	4 3
5	36 × 22	...	3 9	5	36 × 22	...	5 3
6	39 × 24	...	4 4	6	39 × 24	...	6 3
7	42 × 26	...	5 3	7	42 × 26	...	7 3
8	45 × 28	...	6 0	8	48 × 29	...	8 9
9	48 × 30	...	7 0	9	48 × 30	...	10 6

Lower priced Cocoa-fibre mats can be had, but being loosely made, not only do they wear badly, but fail to be of much real use.

But little attempt has been made for some years to improve upon the appearance of Cocoa Mats; Messrs. MAPLE & Co. however, are now introducing some novelties, the ground of which is the ordinary cocoa, with fibre of different colours inserted in diamonds, centres, and borders, producing an agreeable effect. These, in medium size, cost from 13s. each. Plain Cocoa-mats, having "Salve" worked in the centre, are now kept in stock, 39 by 24 inches, 8s. 9d. each.

The patent Oriental Fibre-mats have now stood the test of nearly 14 years, and while suitable for all places where a Cocoa-fibre mat is ordinarily used, are especially adapted for hard dirty wear, and for use at the doors of churches, public halls, offices, or shops. From their peculiar construction they cleanse the boots far more quickly and effectually than Cocoa or other mats; they are economical, as they wear so long; and are easily cleansed, as the dirt springs out freely, on the mat being rolled up face outwards. They can be made in any special size to order, but are kept in stock in the following sizes:—

26 x 22	39 x 24	42 x 26	45 x 28	48 x 30 inches each.
4s. 10.	5s. 10d.	6s. 9d.	7s. 10d.	8s. 9d. each.

The skeleton or thick open mats are used for scullery and similar purposes where there is likely to be wet, dirty wear.

For other doorways the bordered Cocoa-mats, which

have a fine centre of fibre, and surround of wool, are used; they are made as follows:—

EXTRA BORDER MATS, Vandyke or plain Borders.					SLIPS.		
			s.	d.		s.	d.
2	27 × 16	...	3	0	30 × 12	...	2 11
3	30 × 18	...	3	10	32 × 12	...	3 2
4	33 × 20	...	4	9	34 × 12	...	3 4
5	36 × 22	...	5	9	36 × 12	...	3 6
6	39 × 24	...	6	9			
7	42 × 26	...	8	0			
8	45 × 28	...	9	0			

At doorways of principal reception rooms and bedrooms, Oriental rugs are frequently used, though there is sometimes a difficulty in getting them just the right length. Turkey mats are now kept regularly in stock about 3 feet by 1 foot, 5s. 6d., and 3 feet by 2 feet, 10s. 6d. each. Sheepskin mats in black, orange, blue, crimson or white are largely sold; these are usually about 33 by 11 and 36 by 12 inches, prices from 5s. to 9s. 6d. Any particular size or colour can be made to order in a few days. In giving measurement for sheepskin mats, it is advisable to state whether the figures indicate the size of the skin, or of the space to be filled.

The Anglo-Indian rugs before mentioned are made in mat size, 36 × 18 inches, and come at 4s. 9d. each.

What are known as beam mats are also used for bedroom and other doors; they have mottled centres and coloured striped borders. They usually measure about 33 × 12 inches, 2s. 9d.; 36 × 12, 3s. each; any

size and colour can be made to order at 1s., 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per square foot. The same thing, but of larger size, is used for bedroom hearthrugs, with a Kidderminster, Dutch or felt Carpet; prices range from 7s. 9d. upward.

The English made Persian Saddle bags form very pretty mats; they have a short close pile not unlike Utrecht Velvet, and Persian designs and colourings. The sizes are 18 × 18 inches, 3s.; and 22 × 22 inches 4s. 3d. each. The smaller size makes a nice hassock, price complete, 4s. 9d. These mats are also sold for covering chairs, music stools, &c., and are both beautiful and durable.

Tapestry mats, similar to Tapestry Carpet, are very useful, and quite inexpensive; the smaller size 36 × 14 inches, being only 1s. 6½d.; the larger, 36 × 18 inches 2s. 6½d. each. Linoleum mats are kept in stock in two sizes, 18 × 18 inches, 10d.; and 24 × 24 inches, 1s. 6d. each; Floorcloth mats come at 10½d. for the 18 × 18 inch; and 1s. 1½d. for the larger size, 24 × 18 inches.

These are useful for a variety of purposes, such as to put under a plant, vase, flower-stand, coal-box, toilet-ware, or any other article that would mark or soil a carpet.





Carpet Coverings.

A QUESTION frequently asked, and one to which it is not altogether easy to give a satisfactory reply, is "What is the best thing to protect a new, or cover a worn carpet?" Various fabrics are used; and strangely enough, they are all constantly referred to under one term "Drugget." Of druggets there are actually only two kinds; one a stout worsted fabric, on grey or brownish ground with a pattern in bars or stripes, 108 inches wide, 6s. 3d. per yard, with little claim to beauty, but most durable; the other a material similar to baize, with red or green ground, and small printed pattern, about 46 inches in width; price 3s. 3d. per yard. Printed felts are, perhaps, more largely sold than any other materials for covering carpets. The prices of those sold by the yard have already been given. These felts are also made in squares, with borders; the centre has usually a neat pattern in crimson and black, green and black, oaks or Turkey colourings, and border to suit. Some of the leading sizes are specified below, but the material can be made to any

measurement at about three days' notice. The quotations are for best quality :—

ft.		ft.		ft.		ft.	
8.0	×	6.0	13/-	12.0	×	10.0	32/6
8.0	×	7.6	16/3	12.0	×	12.0	39/-
9.0	×	8.0	19/6	12.0	×	13.6	44/-
10.0	×	8.0	22/9	12.0	×	15.0	48/9
12.0	×	8.0	26/-	16.0	×	13.6	58/6

Plain felts can be had in a great variety of colours, such as peacock, olive, terra cotta, crimson, chestnut, mustard, chocolate, marone, &c. They are now considered more fashionable than printed felts, but like all plain fabrics they show spots or marks rather more quickly than a well-covered pattern does. Linen damasks, or drills, are known under the term "Crumb-cloths." They are made especially for covering carpets, and are largely sold for summer wear. They are also used as dancing carpets. The damasks are made in slate-colour, and what is known in the trade as grey, which is really a sort of whitey-brown, with diamond or other pattern. The material is sold by the yard, 66 to 108 inches wide, prices ranging from 1s. 6½d. to 3s. 9d. per yard. It is also supplied woven in one piece, in the following sizes :—

GREY. SLATE.								GREY. SLATE.									
SIZE.				PRICE. PRICE.				SIZE.				PRICE. PRICE.					
FT.	IN.	FT.	IN.	S.	D.	S.	D.	FT.	IN.	FT.	IN.	S.	D.	S.	D.		
6	0	×	6	0	4	4	4	6	7	6	×	9	0	7	9	8	6
6	0	×	7	6	5	3	5	6	7	6	×	10	6	8	11	9	11
6	0	×	9	0	5	11	6	9	7	6	×	12	0	10	6	11	6
7	6	×	7	6	6	6	6	11	9	0	×	9	0	9	6	10	6

GREY. SLATE.								GREY. SLATE.									
SIZE.				PRICE. PRICE.				SIZE.				PRICE. PRICE.					
FT.	IN.	FT.	IN.	S.	D.	S.	D.	FT.	IN.	FT.	IN.	S.	D.	S.	D.		
9	0	×	10	6	10	9	11	9	13	6	×	13	6	22	9	24	6
9	0	×	12	0	12	9	13	9	13	6	×	15	0	25	6	26	9
9	0	×	13	6	14	6	15	6	13	6	×	16	6	28	6	29	6
9	0	×	15	0	15	6	16	9	13	6	×	18	0	31	0	32	6
10	6	×	10	6	12	9	13	9	13	6	×	19	6	33	0	35	0
10	6	×	12	0	14	9	15	9	13	6	×	21	0	35	6	37	6
10	6	×	13	6	16	9	17	9	15	0	×	15	0	30	0	31	6
10	6	×	15	0	18	9	19	6	15	0	×	16	6	32	6	35	0
12	0	×	12	0	17	6	18	9	15	0	×	18	0	35	6	37	6
12	0	×	13	6	19	6	21	0	15	0	×	19	6	38	6	42	0
12	0	×	15	0	22	6	23	6	15	0	×	21	0	42	0	45	0
12	0	×	16	6	24	6	25	9	15	0	×	24	0	49	6	52	6
12	0	×	18	0	26	9	28	6									

The drills have a drab ground, with coloured bars or stripes ; they are to be had about 72 and 108 inches wide ; prices, from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 11d. ; cloths can be made up from these to any measurements. These materials are used, as well for covering Stair Carpets, and for this purpose, are woven with borders, in widths ranging from 14 to 36 inches ; prices from 5d. to 21d. Patterns can be had by writing to Messrs. MAPLE & Co. When soiled, it is better to have these fabrics cleaned and calendered, than washed.

Plain felts are now the most fashionable coverings for Stair Carpets. They are only made 48 inches wide, but Messrs. MAPLE & Co. undertake to cut them to any width. For example, if the Stair Carpet be $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and the length required be 12 yards, 4 yards of the felt, cut into three strips, each 16 inches

wide, will give the necessary quantity, and be wide enough for the stairs. No charge is made for cutting; and the material does not need hemming or binding. A printed drugget, either crimson or green, with a neat pattern in black, forms a useful covering for Stair Carpets. This is to be had 18, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$, and 27 inches wide; prices, 1s. 2d., 1s. 6d., 1s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. respectively. Oilcloths are also used but many complaints have been made respecting them. As a matter of fact, they do not wear well; and this, not because of any defect in their manufacture, but simply because they have not sufficient substance to stand the kind of wear which is inevitable upon a much trodden staircase.

An endeavour has been made to render the foregoing remarks as comprehensive and useful to intending purchasers as possible. It is, however, obvious that in the present day, when so many conventional ideas are set aside, and individual tastes have such sway, when almost every residence of pretension has some art features of its own, that need special consideration and treatment when furniture is provided for it, it is hardly possible, within the limits of these pages, to touch all details of the subject. MESSRS. MAPLE & Co. would therefore add that they will at all times be pleased to give further particulars or information within their power as may be desired. In making enquiries of them, it will always facilitate a satisfactory reply if

the inquirer state fully, and in exact, rather than general, terms, just what he wishes to know.

Messrs. MAPLE & Co. also venture to say that while their extensive practical knowledge of the Carpet trade, and their experience of many years, enable them to offer suggestions and advice that will be found of value, they believe that their immense stock places them in a position to satisfactorily meet every requirement of their patrons. It has always been a principle of Messrs. MAPLE & Co.'s business not only to offer the very largest variety of goods for choice, but also to give the best possible value for nett cash. The soundness of this rule is confirmed by the remarkable development of their business, and the present magnitude of it. Their warehouse is one of the acknowledged sights of London, and as such is frequently visited by tourists from all parts of the Empire, from the Continent, the Colonies, America, India, China, Japan—in fact, from almost every civilized community.





SUPPLEMENT.

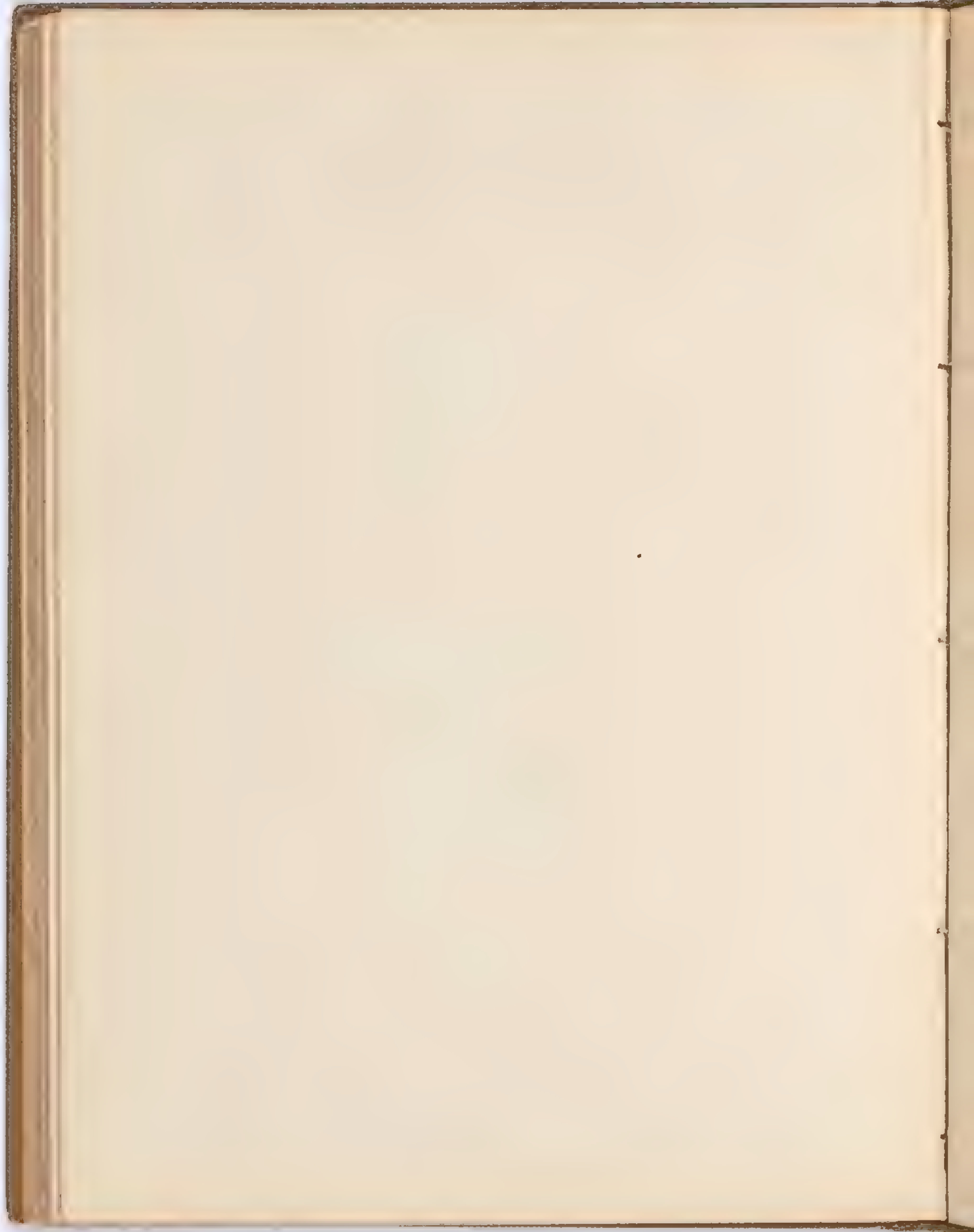
Floor Coverings, &c., for Churches.

MESSRS. MAPLE & Co. wish especially to notify to the Clergy—amongst whom they number so many old and valued customers—and to all concerned in Church Furnishing, that they keep in stock and supply not only Eastern Carpets and Rugs appropriate for the Chancel and Altar, but also Axminster, Wilton and Brussels Carpets in fleur-de-lys, mitre and other designs appropriate to ecclesiastical purposes. They have as well Cocoa Fibre and other Mattings suited to stone floors; and Linoleums, which have been found so useful for aisles, vestries, &c. In their Curtain Department they have a large choice of fabrics, including tapestries in Egyptian, Moorish and Arabesque designs, tinsel tapestries, chenilles, art serges and other fabrics for decoration, and baizes and druggets for screens and curtains. Messrs. MAPLE & Co. supply Hassocks in canvas at so low a price as 5s. per dozen, and covered in Carpet or baize at 8s. 6d. to 20s. per

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